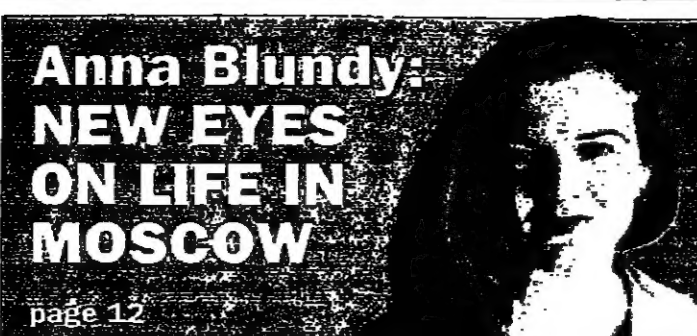


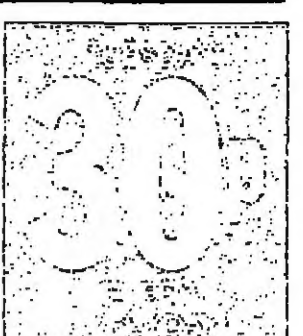
John Bayley:
HOW I FELT IN
LOVE WITH
IRIS MURDOCH



Anna Blundy:
NEW EYES
ON LIFE IN
MOSCOW



Libby Purves:
IS NOTHING
PRIVATE
ANY MORE?



Clinton
promises
to lead
the world

'Greedy bastards' of the boardroom

TUC leader lambasts directors' pay

By Christine Buckley and Jill Sherman

JOHN EDMONDS, President of the TUC, yesterday delivered a stinging attack on boardroom pay branding some directors as "greedy bastards".

In a vitriolic condemnation of soaring executive pay, which will be followed later this week by a separate attack from John Monks, TUC General Secretary, Mr Edmonds said there should be government action against directors who take pay increases of £50,000 or more.

Meanwhile John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, offered little hope of any significant rises in public-sector pay in the near future.

Mr Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB, began the TUC Congress on a controversial note by also calling for higher tax levels for top earners. He said: "Executive pay is now the politics of the pig trough. We have little chance of creating a fair society unless we insist that people with great power act with a similar level of responsibility."

Mr Edmonds, who last week warned of industrial unrest over public pay levels, urged Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to clamp down on boardroom excesses in his general drive to curb pay levels. He said: "A company director who takes a pay rise of £50,000 when the rest of the workforce is getting a few hundred is not part of some general trend."

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, defended pay levels although she said there were occasional

abuses. She said: "Some of the top directors are stars of the system." She said that even a pay jump of £50,000 may be acceptable in some circumstances and accused Mr Edmonds of "intemperate language".

Simon Sperry, chief executive of the London Chambers of Commerce, attacked Mr Edmonds for using the "language of the saloon bar". A spokeswoman for the Confederation of British Industry said that directors also took pay cuts as well as benefiting from rises.

Tomorrow the TUC will publish a new probe into remuneration committees — the teams of directors which set boardroom pay and benefits packages — which have been criticised by Mr Monks as an old-boys network. He will target them as pressure grows among unions to narrow the gap between public-sector pay and that of directors.

Mr Prescott said that the Government had to be "firm and fair" and had to recruit and motivate staff. But this had to be within the limits of what could be afforded. "You in your own unions have to live within your budget and so does Government. We must manage our resources."

Mr Edmonds said higher earners should pay more tax to quell inflation. He said: "Our income tax rates are the lowest in Europe and high interest charges are crushing British industry. So we must have the courage to break this ill-founded consensus, and tell

people earning over £50,000 or £100,000 a year that they must pay higher taxes."

Mr Edmonds said that privatisation had left "a bunch of water companies where there seem to be almost as many bloated rodents in the boardroom as in the sewers. He added: "And what did the privatisation of the railways teach us other than the fact that you need more than beard, an open-neck shirt and a failed diploma in ballooning to make the trains run on time?"

Unison, Britain's biggest union set out a hall of shame in the privatised utilities. It said that Iain Robinson, chief executive of ScottishPower, earns £487,345, a 23 per cent rise last year from 1997. Gordon Owen, chief executive of Energis, the telecoms company, received a 358 per cent pay rise to £938,967 and Jim Forbes, chief executive of Southern Electric, last year was paid £399,000, a 45 per cent rise.

The union, which is campaigning for the minimum wage to be increased from £3.60 to £4.61, said the pay of the best-paid directors dwarfed that of ordinary workers.

Later Mr Prescott accused trade unions of playing up the threat of a recession and making unrealistic demands over both public-sector pay and interest rates. In a surprisingly blunt message, Mr Prescott told delegates to stop whingeing over the economy.

Michael Gove, page 18
TUC reports, page 28



The President and Hillary Clinton ponder the global financial crisis during their visit to New York yesterday

Clinton promises to lead the world

FROM BROWNEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday told Americans that the "United States has an absolutely inescapable obligation to lead" the world out of financial crisis, as he hit the lecture and party circuit in an attempt to repair his image and fill his party's coffers.

His remarks came as he, his wife Hillary, Vice-President Al Gore and his wife Tipper descended on Manhattan.

It was the first time that the quartet, once dubbed the party's "fabulous foursome", had appeared in public together since President Clinton's confession of an adulterous affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr Clinton told Americans that "we cannot forever be an oasis of prosperity" during global financial upheaval, "the biggest challenge facing the world in a half century". He warned Congress that it would be failing its "responsibilities" if it failed to give more money to the International Monetary Fund.

In remarks widely seen as an implicit call for lower interest rates, he said that inflation "was a good thing to be preoccupied with" but that battle had been won. A cut in rates could boost the slowing economy, the extraordinary strength of which has underpinned Mr Clinton's popularity.

He called for ministers and central bankers to meet in the next month to come up with urgent responses to the crisis afflicting more than a third of the world economy.

After Mr Clinton's speech at the Council on Foreign Relations, the first stop was a \$50,000-a-head fund-raising gathering at the Fifth Avenue home of Denise Rich, a Manhattan socialite and song-

Clinton scandal, pages 2, 3
Libby Purves, page 18
Leading article
and Letters, page 19

Captain Scott's belongings may go back to his Antarctic hut

By Stephen Farrell

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"Oh my God! Christie's have got here before us"

AN HISTORIC candle lantern and other artefacts taken from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expedition huts were yesterday withdrawn from a Christie's auction, hours after historians voiced concern over their sale.

Their owner, a retired New Zealand Air Force Wing Commander, John Claydon, pulled lots 210-214 from the *Exploration and Travel* sale and donated them to the Scott Polar Research Institute after the author Jeff Rubin wrote to *The Times* saying the sale damaged the continent's cultural heritage.

Last night Christie's was due to hand them to Dr John Heap, executive director of the Institute. They will be sent back to New Zealand, which

estimated to fetch £13,000, included a candle lantern from Shackleton's Cape Royds hut on his 1907-09 expedition; leather sledge straps from Captain Scott's 1902-04 Discovery Expedition Hut; a brass coat-hook from Scott's Cape Evans cubicle and a glass beaker, crucible and bottles from Dr Edward Adrian Wilson's cubicle.

Wing Commander Claydon, 80, one of the first New Zealanders to go to the South Pole, removed them in 1957 while running air support for the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition. Two years later the 1959 Antarctic Treaty was passed protecting the sites and banning the removal of objects.

He said that he had left them in his garage for 40 years until he decided to get rid of them, and that money from the sale was "intended to go back to the Antarctic." But yesterday he agreed to donate them to the Institute and said the auction house had waived its usual penalty for items withdrawn late.

"In view of the hoo-hah it was decided to withdraw them. I suggested that they should go to the Antarctic Heritage Trust in the UK. They can send them back to New Zealand or they can go back to the huts," he said.

Both Wing Commander Claydon and Christie's insisted he was the rightful owner because the items came into his possession before the 1959 Treaty.

Mr Rubin said that an auction would have sent the wrong message to the increasing numbers of tourists.

controls the Ross Dependency and may ultimately be put back in the Scott and Shackleton huts.

The controversial objects,

Viagra on the NHS is banned

DOCTORS have been ordered not to prescribe Viagra on the NHS. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said yesterday that if there was a rush on the anti-impotence drug other patients could be denied the treatment they needed.

In a letter to GPs, health authorities and trusts, Mr Dobson said the ban was an interim measure.

The drug may be licensed in Europe today, and GPs will then be able to prescribe it, but only on a private prescription.

Each pill is expected to cost £4.84, but it is difficult to predict how many men will want treatment, so estimates of the total cost of prescribing it have ranged from £50 million (from the manufacturer, Pfizer) to £1 billion a year.

Dobson ban, page 4

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Abbey National Life	£372.64	£5452.80	£1408.80
Nationwide Life	£394.00	£5880.00	£1836.00

Source: Life and Pensions Money Facts - July 1998

Bowler's perfect score is just not good enough

FROM ROB HUGHES IN KUALA LUMPUR



Richard Hood on his way to a maximum 300 teapin bowling score in Malaysia

SPORTING perfection can still mean defeat if you haven't got the perfect partner, an Englishman discovered at the Commonwealth Games yesterday. Competing in teapin bowling, Richard Hood knocked down all ten pins, ten times in a row.

It was the equivalent of a cricketer hitting six sixes or a snooker player achieving a maximum 147 break, but Hood was left with a silver medal and forced to endure the strains of the Australian anthem.

The problem was that he was playing mixed doubles. The 300 points that the com-

puter consultant scored in a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was not quite enough to win the mixed doubles event. The combined score of Cara Honeychurch, a diminutive Australian, and her partner Frank "the tank" Ryan beat the total of Hood and his teammate, Pauline Buck, from Surbiton, Surrey.

But while the gold went to Australia, the bespectacled Hood won the adulation of the audience. Teapin bowling, although invented in New York in 1890, is a national obsession in Malaysia. It was included in the Games for the first time because the items came into his possession before the 1959 Treaty.

Mr Rubin said that an auction would have sent the wrong message to the increasing numbers of tourists.

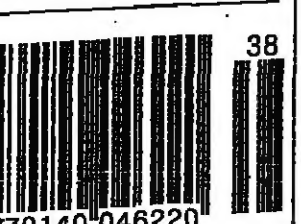
hopes of taking the gold itself. Excitement was already growing among the audience of 2,000 when Hood, 44, bowled his seventh ball. By the time the final pin toppled, hundreds of extra spectators were standing at the back of the crowded hall, craning for a view. Members of other teams joined the celebrations, exchanging high fives as Hood, the calmest person in the arena hit perfection.

In a competition lasting several hours, the score by the English pair was just 45 points short of the Australian total of 3,605. Hood — and his partner — can still strike gold in the singles.

The Games, page 48

Wallace dies

George Wallace, the former Governor of Alabama, has died aged 79. Mr Wallace, who recanted his segregationism, was shot and paralysed in 1972 as he campaigned for the presidency.



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CLINTON SCANDAL

Clinton faces crucial choice over senator's olive branch

ORRIN HATCH, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has offered President Clinton what could be regarded as an olive branch. Admit the obvious perjury, the Republican senator said, and Congress could consider a vote of censure rather than impeachment.

That sentiment was echoed by his Democratic colleague, Senator Robert Kerry of Nebraska. Many more figures on Capitol Hill — both Republican and Democrat — will now rush to endorse the same approach. It will seem reasonable enough to most Americans. The advice, in political terms, is difficult to dispute.

But the President's lawyers will regard it as a poisoned chalice. They will point out the gravity of admitting to perjury to a grand jury. They will argue that any plea-bargain that does not involve Kenneth Starr is a dubious venture. They will note that Mr Starr has the legal right to pursue the criminal aspects of the Lewinsky affair in the courts.

COMMENTARY
BY TIM HANES

They are almost certainly right. It remains a matter of real constitutional uncertainty as to whether a serving President can be placed on trial for criminal actions. The sole precedent involves a 1973 Justice Department ruling concerning Spiro Agnew, the then Vice-President. Agnew was facing prosecution for offences he had committed in his earlier career as Governor of Maryland. Agnew tried to argue that his post as Vice-President protected him from trial while in office. The Justice Department disagreed and instead (somewhat conveniently for Richard Nixon) determined that only the President enjoyed that protection. That dictum forced Agnew's resignation.

The logic of this position has been

badly undermined by two subsequent Supreme Court cases. In *US v Nixon* 1974 the Court ruled unanimously that a President was obliged, in criminal cases, to surrender material that could lead to his own prosecution. Nixon left office shortly after that judgment. In *Clinton v Jones* 1997 the Supreme Court decided that a President could face trial in civil cases while in office. It is difficult to appreciate a legal logic that would result in a President being eligible for trial on slander or libel but not in the more serious instances of perjury and obstruction of justice. The Supreme Court would be asked to clarify this.

So it is not impossible that Mr Clinton could face trial and certain sentence of some form for perjury. Even if that is unlikely, Mr Clinton's lawyers will tell him, he will definitely be open to prosecution the moment he becomes a private citizen. Again an advance acknowledgement of guilt would fatally

undermine his legal standing. Mr Starr might risk becoming the most unpopular man in America if he hounded Mr Clinton in the courts. That opprobrium has not bothered him so far.

Mr Clinton could decide to risk all and accept Mr Hatch's offer. He would bravely acknowledge his willingness to take whatever legal sanction might emerge but ask that such a showdown await his departure from Washington. If he made this pledge, sincerely and without slippery legal language, he could survive in office — unless further evidence of sexual misconduct or damage from other sources, such as the Whitewater report, unstitched the bargain. Hillary Clinton's view on the wisdom of this strategy may be decisive.

However, the President may feel obliged to tell Democrats in Congress that he will not admit to lying under oath. He will stick to the line that he did not have a sexual relationship with Monica

Lewinsky and that he was, as he previously testified, not alone with her because the door to the Oval Office was slightly ajar. This is obviously a nonsensical position. Mr Clinton will effectively be daring Congress to impeach him.

It is a reasonable assumption that congressional Democrats would not be wildly enthusiastic at such a response. They would be forced into a choice between exonerating Mr Clinton or indicating that they would vote to impeach him. The prospect of a Democratic meltdown in the November mid-term elections will loom large in their calculation. The Democratic men in grey suits would then need to decide whether to tell the President that they will abandon him unless he either admits perjury or offers his resignation. At that point Mr Clinton will finally have to make the choice he has sought to avoid for so long, between obeying his legal team or his political advisers.



Hatch: offer of deal to Clinton

Blair will stand by a 'friend and ally'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday delivered his strongest backing for President Clinton since the publication of the Starr report.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said Mr Blair was not a "fair-weather friend" and he would not "dump people because some report appears on the Internet." He added that an intervention by the Prime Minister in what was a mat-

BRITAIN

ter for the American Congress and people would be "stupid." Informed government sources said that Mr Blair was determined to remain steadfastly supportive of Mr Clinton, despite calls from some of his backbenchers to distance himself from a damaged President.

Mr Blair spoke to Mr Clinton on Friday soon after the Starr report was released and is likely to brief him over the next few days on the latest G7 efforts to tackle "world economic problems." The two leaders will meet in New York next Monday when Mr Blair addresses the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr Blair's spokesman said: "It is absolutely in Britain's national interest that the Prime Minister and the Government have good relations with the most powerful democracy in the world. He sees President Clinton as a very good friend and ally to this country, not least for what he has done on several occasions for the Northern Ireland peace process."

Letters, page 19

Panel ready for impeachment war

Clinton's fate is in the hands of a group of divided politicians, writes Damian Whitworth in Washington

THE 37 men and women who hold the fate of President Clinton in their hands are preparing for a "war" over whether or not he should be impeached. Members of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, who are beginning deliberations on whether Kenneth Starr's report contains grounds to begin the process that could culminate in the President's removal from office, have indicated

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

they are ready to fight hard along party lines.

Things look bad for Mr Clinton. The committee is Republican-controlled and Henry Hyde, its chairman and a man respected for his integrity, said after reading the report that he already believed that impeachment hearings should be held. "I must say I do, but I want to hear everyone on the committee," he said.

The committee is composed of 21 Republicans and 16 Democrats. The two sides are known in Washington for

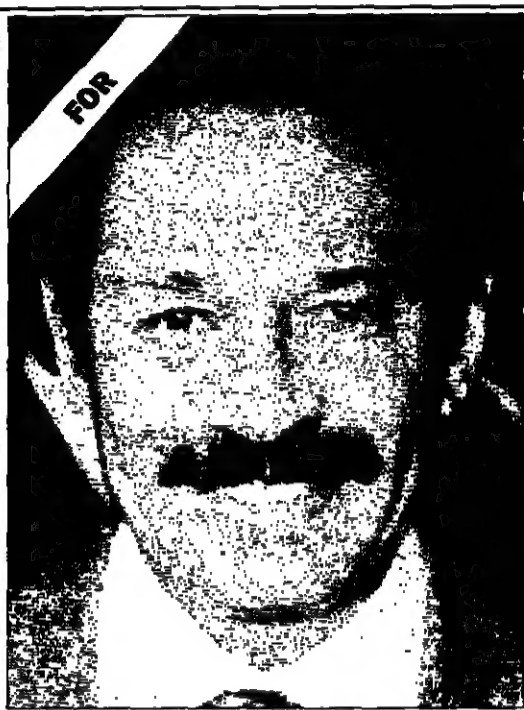
being some of the President's harshest critics and most loyal champions. "This one looks like it's going to get into a real war," said Melvin Watt, a Democrat from North Carolina who sits on the committee.

The White House must be alarmed that Mr Hyde has made his position clear so quickly. Many of his Republican colleagues on the committee are much more partisan. They include Lindsey Graham, a representative from South Carolina who last year was attempted to oust Newt Gingrich as Speaker for not being conservative enough. Bill McCollum, from Florida, insisted that he had not come to a conclusion yet but said he was "shocked and disgusted" by the report. "This is a very, very serious matter."

Another Republican, Bob Barr from Georgia, has already tried to impeach the President once. He filed a resolution to do so even before Monica Lewinsky had been heard of because he said the President had debased his office. "The flames of hedonism, the flames of narcissism, the flames of self-centred morality are licking at the very



Clinton's future rests with the congressional Judiciary Committee, which includes, from left, Henry Hyde, John Conyers and Bill McCollum



foundation of our society: the family unit," he said then.

Some of Mr Clinton's Democratic defenders are equally strident on his behalf, led by John Conyers, the ranking Democrat on the committee and the only one of the 37 who was on the panel in 1974 when it investigated Nixon. "If congressmen get impeached for misleading statements or ly-

ing, we are done for," he has said.

The Democratic position is that the report is just the case for the prosecution and needs to be thoroughly examined. "We should always remember that this is a prosecutor's report. By its nature it's a one-sided report. None of the witnesses were cross-examined," said Jerrold Nadler, a

New York representative. "It has nothing to do with the high crimes and misdemeanours that the constitution requires for an investigation and an impeachment of the president," argued Robert Weider, of Florida. "This isn't Lyndon Johnson lying about Vietnam. This isn't Ronald Reagan maybe not telling the truth about Iran-Contra. This is Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinsky. Who cares?"

Another great defender of the President is Barney Frank of Massachusetts, who is renowned for a wit as sharp as his intellect. The only openly gay representative, he knows that the scandal need not finish a political career. He was re-elected despite being reprimanded by the House in 1990 when it emerged that a household employee was running a prostitution business out of his apartment. "Ken Starr has not got

enough to get the president, so he's seeking to discredit him," he said. But Mr Frank has also been critical of the President. "He lies by being technically accurate. I wish he would stop it. I wish he would have learned that I didn't inhale" is

'This isn't Lyndon Johnson lying about Vietnam. This is Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinsky. Who cares?'

just not worthy of him and everybody sees through it. He's not a any more, trying to outsmart the principal."

There are others on both sides whose position is uncertain. Howard Berman the ranking Democrat on the

committee, has refused to comment on the report. There has been no comment either from Mary Bono, the only Republican woman on the committee. But Mrs Bono was harsh about the President's conduct before the report was published. "Character does count. I think in the end you're going to see that people do care about that."

The first task of the committee is to decide whether or not to release the 2,000 pages of Grand Jury testimony, including the videotape of Mr Clinton's evidence. A decision will be made by September 29. It is expected that they will hold an initial inquiry to examine the Starr Report and the White House rebuttal. A vote in favour of the committee, and ratification by a majority of the full, Republican-controlled House would lead to public hearings, which would probably be televised.

Gore takes supporting role as he confronts fundraising questions

By Ian Brodie

NUMBER ONE ALLIES

AL AND Tipper Gore, the ever-loyal Vice-President and his wife, were at the side of President and Hillary Clinton in New York yesterday, acting as if nothing had changed since their first joyful campaign has ride together six years ago.

During a day of fundraising, they attended a benefit performance of the Broadway musical, *The Lion King*. Unlike the young cub Simba, Mr Gore makes clear that he does not yearn for the departure of his own lion king. He declared firmly that the Starr report does not contain grounds for impeachment of Mr Clinton, who had accepted responsibility for his actions and was doing a tremendous job as President. "I look forward to continuing to work with him," Mr Gore said.

It was a classic example of the second-in-line as number one ally, and it is what Washington expects of Mr Gore. Yet try as he might to go through the rituals as if nothing were amiss, the Vice-President knows he is suddenly under intense scrutiny.

The Gores are inevitably weighing up the odds of their moving in the weeks or months ahead from the vice-presidential mansion, next to the British Embassy, to the White House two miles away. They may try to stay above the fray, but they are very much a



Al and Tipper Gore have remained untainted by scandal

22nd amendment of the US Constitution. Mr Gore would be unable to hold more than one four-year term as President if he fills in for Mr Clinton for more than two years. At 50, Mr Gore wants to win two four-year terms in his own right.

It may not be easy. There is no hint of impropriety about the Gores' marriage, but the aura of scandal could hurt them. Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, has opened an investigation that could lead to an independent prosecutor into Mr

Gore's alleged illegal fundraising during the 1996 election.

He did one amazingly stupid thing in attending a Buddhist temple in Los Angeles where \$65,000 (£40,000) was collected in political donations, a practice forbidden on religious premises.

Still, for all his stolid image and often woden delivery, the popular Mr Gore is fully qualified to be President. As a senator, he became an expert on nuclear arms control and foreign policy. He wrote a thoughtful book on global

warming and other environmental threats.

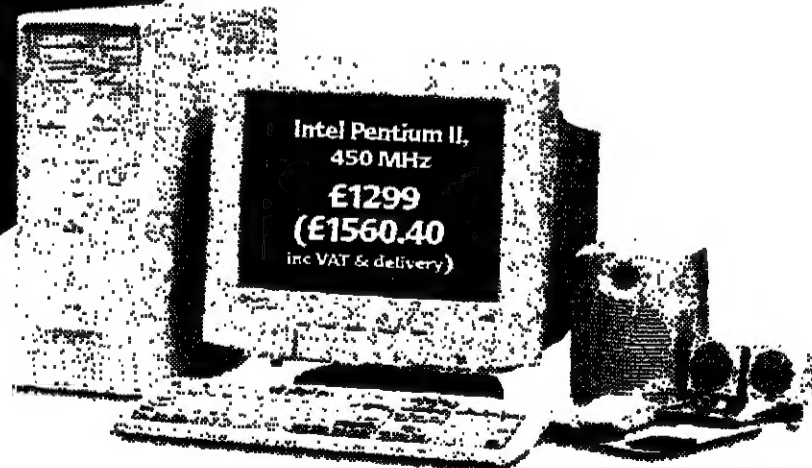
The Gore family are Southern gentry from Tennessee. Mr Gore grew up in two contrasting societies: Washington where he went to a private school while his father was in the Senate, and the family farm where he rode a horse and cut the harvest. Before following his father into politics, he went to Harvard, where his room-mate was Tommy Lee Jones, the Hollywood actor, followed by stints in Vietnam and as a journalist.

Mr Gore and Tipper were teenage sweethearts. They have three daughters and a son. She is an accomplished photographer and has campaigned for warning labels on X-rated CDs. Mrs Gore has been portrayed as something of a Hillary clone. It is an unfair comparison. She is not known as scheming and manipulative and is not given to seeing plots behind every pillar.

She has made mental healthcare her cause. Unheralded, unsung and inconspicuous, she tours the streets and back alleys of Washington, providing medicine and other comforts to the homeless. To the consternation of her secret service agents, she recently escorted a babbling woman who insisted she had a message for Mr Clinton to the gates of the White House. The woman gave her message to the guards and went away happy.

Mr Gore has a sense of fun behind his unbending public pose. In a self-parody at a private party, he introduced a life-size cardboard cutout of himself as being less stiff than the real Gore.

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CLINTON SCANDAL

President 'has lost the trust of his people'

AN OLD Oxford friend and former member of President Clinton's cabinet has warned him that the only way to save his presidency is to explain fully why he risked everything with Monica Lewinsky and promise the American people that he will not do anything similar again.

Robert Reich became close to Mr Clinton after the President nursed him through terrible seasickness when they were fellow Rhodes scholars and later served as his first Labour Secretary. He said that even if the President survived a congressional impeachment, he would be "virtually" impeached because he would not have the trust of the people and America would remain mired in the controversy.

The former Harvard lecturer, who left Mr Clinton's Administration to return to academia, said that, like many people who had known the President for years, he was "angry and confused" about his behaviour. He said that Mr Clinton had taken a "wild, bizarre risk" in carrying on a relationship with Monica Lewinsky at a time when all public figures were under scrutiny over inappropriate

America risks remaining mired in controversy, writes Damian Whitworth

sexual relationships with subordinates. "You might conclude that something is not quite right with the President. What happens to presidential power when he shows such lack of judgment? Power inevitably subsides." In a brutally frank

FRIENDLY FIRE

article in *The Wall Street Journal*, he wrote: "The second offence is the public lie — not simply the fact of it (Presidents aren't always honest) but its passionate intensity."

He added: "Like the great method actors of a previous generation, Mr Clinton feels the emotions he expresses; his performances could not be so convincing were they any-

thing but sincere, and yet they are still performances."

Further apologies would not save the President, Mr Reich concluded. "What Mr Clinton must do is explain why he risked everything and then lie so badly about it, and assure us that he has changed his ways... lacking trust, Mr Clinton has no presidency to defend, and we have no presidency to lead us."

Mr Reich described the unpleasantness of watching the Monica Lewinsky affair unravel. "Most of us — even including those of us who have campaigned for him in the past, known him for years and served with him in Washington — are angry and confused, not yet willing to choose, not yet searching for another option, wishing that the whole thing would go away. No chance. This will drag on."

Mr Reich said that Mr Clinton's behaviour could be regarded as either a character flaw, if one wanted to blame him, or a compulsion "for those who wish to blame demons in his psyche". He did not say which he adhered to.

He said that Mr Clinton's ability to lie so convincingly sprang from his absolute mastery of television. "Better than any President of the television age, Bill Clinton has mastered television — looking directly into the camera, speaking softly, pausing for reflection; lower lip sometimes protruding in defiance, or folded under upper teeth in a show of determination; sometimes smiling gently, eyes twinkling; sometimes brows furrowed and jaw clenched in a display of conviction; sometimes eyes moist and brows tilted slightly upward, showing empathy or contrition."

Mr Reich asked: "If he can so convincingly fake a lie, how can the public believe anything else he says — including his current stream of apologies. He spoke to America with the same emotional intensity he has brought to



Robert Reich, a friend from the President's student days whose advice is a classic example of "tough love"

countless public issues. What happens to presidential power when credibility is so blatantly forfeited? It inevitably subsides."

The article might be regarded as a classic attempt at "tough love" by a man who first got to know Mr Clinton when they sailed together to England as Rhodes scholars.

Mr Reich, a man of less than 5ft whose growth was stunted by a rare genetic disease, was badly seasick on the voyage. They bonded when Mr Clinton came to his

cabin with ginger ale and crackers to cheer him up and have been friends since.

In 1986, Mr Reich wrote in the *American Oxonian*: "Rumour has it that Bill will be the Democratic candidate for President in 1988. I just made up that rumour, but by the time you read this, the rumour will have spread to the ends of the nation."

In 1993 he got the call from the President to be his Labour Secretary. He decided not to stay on for the second term when Mr Clinton was re-

elected and took a professorship in economic and social policy at Brandeis university.

□ Singapore: Two influential Asia-Pacific newspapers have called for President Clinton to resign over his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Editorials from Singapore to Seoul said the President had lost the moral authority to govern at a time when the region needed strong leadership to help it to overcome a financial crisis.

"He has humiliated his wife, embarrassed his daughter... demeaned himself and

debased his office. Continuing the fight to stay on will only exacerbate this damage. He should resign," said *The Australian* daily.

Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post*, in a Sunday editorial, also called for Mr Clinton to quit. Most of the region's papers concentrated on the potential political vacuum caused by the scandal and its impact on Asia rather than the salacious details in the Starr report. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 19

First Lady works out her anger in the gym

By Ian Brodie

HILLARY CLINTON, still deeply angry over her husband's affair with Monica Lewinsky, is refusing to make a speech sharing her hurt and explicitly forgiving him. Rather, she is letting him twist slowly in the wind, according to American media reports yesterday.

As a distraction, she is working up a sweat with vigorous workouts in the White House private gym using weights, treadmill, stationary bicycle and Stairmaster. She has decided she can at least be thin if unhappy.

A Newsweek poll on whether Americans are willing to support President Clinton indicated that 30 per cent would be more likely to if his wife made a statement forgiving him. For now, though, polls show that the majority

BETRAYAL

of people think she has not yet done so. Mrs Clinton has made only one statement on her marital crisis. Issued a month ago, it said she still loved her husband and remained committed to her marriage. On the eve of the Starr report, she said she was proud of his achievements as President. Privately, she still feels betrayed.

The explicit details contained in the Starr report will have added to Mrs Clinton's humiliation, almost certainly giving her a far fuller account of the affair than her husband had done. Mr Starr quotes Mr Clinton as telling Ms Lewinsky that he had "hundreds" of affairs early in his marriage. He had tried to be more faithful since his 40th birthday 12 years ago, but he also suggested he might get divorced after leaving the White House.

Mrs Clinton's only hint of her personal agony came at a small private party. During a conversation about a friend's medical condition she was asked if she had ever undergone a stress test. "I'm having one now," she said, unhappily.



Bill Clinton as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in 1968

How far can US leader who has sinned push God-fearing public?

By Martin Fletcher

AMERICAN VALUES

THE Lewinsky affair has highlighted a great American conundrum: why does a country so God-fearing and moralistic as America tolerate a President so philandering and mendacious?

George Bernard Shaw once described Britain and America as two countries divided by a common language, but the cultural differences run far deeper than that. America was founded by people of intense religious convictions fleeing persecution at home. It remains the Western world's most devout nation, save possibly for Ireland. It still sees itself as the promised land, the antithesis of the decadent Old World.

It is a land where the biggest and finest new buildings are frequently churches, where polls show at least half the population more inclined to accept the biblical than the scientific version of creation, and where nobody could possibly be elected president who did not at least profess to be a churchgoer.

At any one time there will be three or four televangelists holding forth on the 100-plus cable channels that most American homes receive. Some states put disclaimers in science textbooks that teach the theory of evolution. In the backwoods, where the traits that distinguish Americans from Europeans are most pronounced, it is possible to find itinerant preachers plying their trade in truck stops, people who worship by handling snakes because they take literally a biblical injunction that the faithful "shall take up serpents", and communities

that have retreated to mountaintops to await the second coming.

This religiosity is reflected in an intense social conservatism. American politicians, Mr Clinton included, vie to appear the most committed to "family values" — an issue which backfired disastrously on John Major when he tried to import it to Britain. Hundreds of counties across America are still "dry". There are practically no nudist or topless beaches anywhere in the country — even changing on the beach is frowned upon. Idaho's Gem County is admitted to an extreme example: unwed mothers there are still prosecuted for fornication.

Some American newspapers are apologising to readers for printing the graphic

sexual details revealed by Mr Starr, the minister's son and Sunday school teacher who has adopted the role of latter-day puritan hunting down the sinful. Middle America should be recoiling in disgust from his tales of Mr Clinton using a cigar for sexual purposes in the hallowed Oval Office, or talking to congressmen by telephone while Ms Lewinsky was performing oral sex, let alone telling lies both under oath and to the nation.

Even in godless, amoral Britain, a Prime Minister would have been obliged to resign for doing what Mr Clinton did, and yet the President's opinion poll ratings continue to defy gravity.

There is no single obvious explanation for this paradox.



Some US newspapers apologised for printing details of the sexual encounters involving Monica Lewinsky

Leadership promise as polls give support

Continued from page 1
writer. Her former husband Marc Rich is one of the world's most successful commodity traders.

Later the Clintons and Gores were set to attend a \$10,000-a-plate dinner at The Supper Club, a regular venue for cabaret shows, and patronised for its air of old-fashioned indulgence.

The Clintons and Gores were due to rush through that in order to reach a special performance of the Disney musical *The Lion King*. Mr Clinton, who has been nicknamed "The Lion King" in

recent headlines, was due to make a final speech before heading back to Washington. The fund-raisers are needed to drum up money for Democratic candidates across the country who are running for the Senate and the House of Representatives.

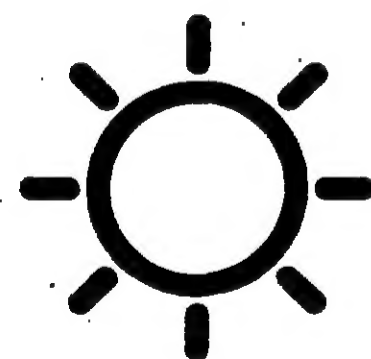
Yesterday, the first working day after the explosive publication of the Starr report, there were signs that the President was making headway in the pitch for Americans' support.

Despite widespread public distaste for the President's behaviour, opinion polls

showed his already high approval ratings rising further, with strong resistance to the suggestion that he should go.

The latest Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll showed that 64 per cent thought he was doing a good job, slightly higher than in recent weeks. Crucially for Mr Clinton, Americans do not want him to leave — 66 per cent are opposed to impeachment and 62 per cent to resignation.

His support among women, which has been central to his political rise, appears to be holding strong.



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Dobson bans Viagra prescriptions on NHS

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS have been ordered not to prescribe the anti-impotence drug Viagra on the NHS. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said yesterday that Viagra "could prove a serious drain on the NHS" and that if there was a rush on the drug other patients could be denied the treatment they needed.

In a letter to GPs, health authorities and trusts, Mr Dobson said that the ban was an interim measure. Estimates of the total cost of prescribing Viagra have ranged from as low as £50 million (from the manufacturer, Pfizer) to as high as £1 billion a year. Each pill is expected to cost £4.84, but it is difficult to estimate how many men will want treatment. Viagra is

expected to be given its licence in Europe this week, possibly today. GPs will then be able to prescribe it, but only on a private prescription.

The approval follows a three-month period in which supply arrangements and guidelines to control prescriptions were supposed to have been worked out. Mr Dobson's letter makes it clear that, despite the delay since the drug was given the scientific all-clear by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the Health Department has been unable to come up with prescription guidelines.

Mr Dobson said yesterday he would seek further expert advice and would have more discussions with Pfizer. "I expect definitive guidance will be issued in the next few weeks," he said. In his letter he said the ban on NHS prescrib-

ing did not mean that ministers had already made up their minds about the drug. Mr Dobson's letter also indicates that ministers have failed to a medical basis for restricting sales and have been forced to acknowledge that

Viagra is being banned to save money. The diamond-shaped blue pill helps seven out of 10 impotent men to have sex, and offers for the first time a simple remedy for an age-old malady. Previous drugs have

been more awkward or uncomfortable to use, resulting in a rush for Viagra as soon as it was licensed in the US in March.

Viagra has some side effects, such as headaches, bluish vision, nausea and

flushing. It has also been linked to the deaths of 69 men in the US, 46 of which were due to heart trouble. Pfizer insists that GPs are competent to diagnose impotence, while urologists have resisted any suggestions that they be used

as "gatekeepers" to control prescriptions of the drug. Dr Ian Bogle, Chairman of the BMA Council, said he regretted the postponement of a decision on NHS prescriptions because the publicity surrounding the drug had increased expectations. "What is now required is a very clear decision from Ministers based on evidence and professional advice as soon as possible about Viagra's availability on the NHS, as this may have significant workload implications for doctors."

Ann Craig, of the Impotence Association, said it would have been better if the guidelines had been ready for the drug's licensing. "We will be inundated with requests for advice and we shall have to tell men to wait," she said. "We have already been saying that for months." She

hoped that ministers would simply issue a set of management guidelines to GPs on the treatment of impotence. She doubted that as many men would come forward as had been suggested.

"There are a lot of men who are impotent but who aren't that bothered," she said. "There are some who can't take it for medical reasons, and 250,000 on existing treatments with which they are happy. So although there may be a rush to start with, I don't think it will be as great as some have suggested."

The NHS Confederation welcomed the temporary ban. Its chief executive, Stephen Thornton, said that it was a bold step considering all the media hype there has been over this particular drug. He added: "At last we know where we stand."

TALL STORIES AND A FEW HARD FACTS

THE hype over the awaited release of Viagra onto the British market and its success in America has resulted in a flood of stories.
□ Ronald Virag, a French fertility expert, said his reputation was being ruined by Viagra. He wants the makers to change its name or pay him compensation. Dr Virag said: "I am frequently called Dr Viagra. They should have asked before using the name."
□ Pills smuggled from America were sold in nightclubs under the name Pokie for up to £40 each.
□ After being introduced in America in April, the pill was credited with reviving the Moonlight Bunnymen in Nevada, where business is booming thanks to Viagra-fuelled older clients.
□ Ian and Joan Lyon, from Devon, tested the drug after complaining they were not satisfied

with love-making sessions lasting "just an hour". Ian, 78, and Joan, 79, said the drug "seriously helped".
□ The Playboy tycoon Hugh Hefner, 72, said: "I heartily endorse it. The truth is it's the greatest recreational drug ever."
□ Pensioners in Argentina claimed that plans to give them free Viagra was a government plot to kill them.
□ Airline pilots in New Zealand were banned from taking Viagra because of possible side-effects, including blurred vision.
□ A French restaurateur, Jean-Louis Galland, was forced to withdraw an "adult menu" featuring Viagra after officials threatened legal action. Mr Galland said: "We did it to give pleasure to old men and their wives."
□ Zoologists were investigating the possibility

of using Viagra to tempt endangered species to eat in the mood for mating.
□ One American chronicler offered Viagra-fuelled holidays in Branson, Missouri, complete with medical check-ups and an optional trip to a performance by the Osmond Brothers.
□ Eldo Bert, the mayor of Boca Raton, a small town in Brazil, handed out free supplies in an effort to increase the dwindling population. Bert allegedly spent £21,000 of his budget on the drug.
□ A Taiwanese prostitute said that she killed a 70-year-old client because of his excessive sexual demands after taking two tablets.
□ Four out of eight Viagra pills used as evidence during a dispute of the Israeli parliament's science committee disappeared during the session.

Brittle bone drug may prevent breast cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DRUG introduced yesterday will help to protect older women against developing brittle bones and may also reduce the risks of heart disease and breast cancer.

Evista, made by Eli Lilly, gained its licence as a treatment for osteoporosis, the bone-thinning condition often suffered by women after the menopause. But in trials it was also shown to lower cholesterol levels and reduce the incidence of breast cancer in the first two and a half years it is taken.

Evista — the brand name for raloxifene hydrochloride — is the first of a new class of drugs, called selective oestrogen receptor modulators, or SERMs, which mimic the effects of the female hormone oestrogen in some tissues but block its action in others.

Professor David Purdie, of Hull Royal Infirmary, an expert in osteoporosis, said that they can offer women the protective benefits of oestrogen on bone and cholesterol, while blocking oestrogen's negative effects on the breast and uterus. "It is a big step forward" he said.

The evidence is that Evista increases bone density and

reduces the incidence of fractures of the spine by 52 per cent in women with osteoporosis.

Side-effects are described by the company as generally mild, and include hot flushes and leg cramps.

The trials also show a 53 per cent reduction in the incidence of breast cancer over 30 months, but this is too short a time to be sure that the effect is permanent. Longer trials are

planned to compare Evista with tamoxifen, an established breast cancer drug which some trials have also shown has a preventive effect.

A second trial will assess its effects on heart disease, based on evidence that Evista cuts the damaging sort of cholesterol by up to 10 per cent. A total of 10,000 women will be given the drug for more than seven years, to see if it can prevent heart attacks and other heart-related deaths.

Linda Edwards, director of the National Osteoporosis Society, said: "Almost 40 per cent of a woman's life is after the menopause." "The NOS welcomes the role of raloxifene in increasing treatment options for postmenopausal women in the prevention of osteoporosis."
□ Britain's first surrogate grandmother has had one of her breasts removed after a cancer scare she believes may have been caused by her pregnancy. Edith Jones, 52, of Darlington, Durham, gave birth to her granddaughter, Caitlin, after an egg from her daughter Suzanne, which had been fertilised by Suzanne's husband, was implanted in her. The operation came 18 months after Caitlin was born.

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Rodney Ledward arriving for the General Medical Council hearing, where he denied incompetence and dishonesty

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillor jailed over false claims

A former councillor who fiddled his expenses and falsified Labour Party accounts was jailed for eight months at Doncaster Crown Court.

Mick Collins, 46, who sat on Labour-run Doncaster council, admitted making four false expense claims and asked for 18 similar offences to be taken into consideration. The amount of money falsely claimed was almost £2,000. He also admitted four charges of false accounting linked to his former position as treasurer of Adwick Labour Party in Doncaster. He is the fourth serving or former member of the council to be prosecuted.

Five die in crash

Five people, including two children, were killed when a mini-bus taking pupils to a special needs school crashed head on with a lorry on a main road near Arklow, Co Wicklow. One other boy is critical, and another suffered serious injuries.

Murder remand

Alan Hobbs, 31, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody by Windsor magistrates, accused of the murders of Gillian Harvey, 30, Ian Brown, 36, and Peter Smith, 31, whose bodies were found in Ms Harvey's flat in Slough, Berkshire, on September 3.

Capital record

A record number of people visited London last year. More than 28 million visited the capital, an increase of 10 per cent on 1996 thanks mainly to more domestic visitors. But spending rose only slightly, the London Tourist Board and Convention said.

End of weapon

The machete used by Horrett Campbell to attack children at a teddy bears' picnic at St Luke's Primary School in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, in July 1996, has been destroyed by police. It was cut into pieces with an oxy-acetylene torch and melted down.

Mummy's lads

Young men may boast of their laddish drink and girls life-style but a survey reveals that at heart they are really mummy's boys. According to a survey of 600 Celine mobile telephone users, mothers top the list of those called each week by the 18-34 age group.

Doctor removed ovaries 'without patient's consent'

By DEBORAH COLLCUTT

A GYNAECOLOGIST was accused yesterday of removing a woman's ovaries without her permission after telling her they were perfectly healthy.

Rodney Ledward, 58, a consultant from Folkestone, Kent, allegedly performed the hysterectomy with such incompetence that two litres of blood had to be removed from the woman's stomach and abdomen because of excessive bleeding.

At a hearing of the General Medical Council, it was claimed that Mr Ledward, who has 33 years' experience, later wrote to her GP stating that the surgery had been "uncomplicated".

Mr Ledward is accused of a range of failings from incompetence to dishonesty concerning 14 patients over seven years at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent, and private hospitals.

The GMC's professional conduct committee was told that Mr Ledward is also

accused of trying to profit from his NHS patients by persuading them to opt for private treatment at the Bupa St Saviour's Hospital in Hythe where he worked part-time.

James Badenoch, QC, for the GMC, outlined four categories: clinical and surgical incompetence, inappropriate delegation to junior doctors, lack of involvement when his patients developed complications and dishonesty in search of personal gain.

The hearing was told that Mr Ledward had informed the hysterectomy patient that her ovaries were still ovulating and healthy five weeks before the operation in November 1992. After the ovaries were removed, she was taken to a post-operative care room where her condition rapidly deteriorated. She lost large amounts of blood through gaps in her stitches.

Mr Badenoch said: "Her condition was approaching haemorrhagic shock. She was

obviously losing blood." Senior doctors and administrative staff tried to contact Mr Ledward, who had left for London. A second operation was carried out by Mr Ledward at 11pm the same day — nine hours after the first.

The hearing was told that the gynaecologist, who also worked as an obstetrician, failed to make any mention of the blood loss when he wrote to her GP. Mr Badenoch said: "To describe the operation after this terrible post-operative course of events as 'uncomplicated' was at the very best a serious gloss on the truth, and at worst totally misleading."

Mr Ledward, who qualified in 1965 after training in Liverpool and has held positions at hospitals in Britain and the United States, denies failing to obtain his patient's consent. He also denies causing the bleeding and making misleading statements to her GP. The hearing continues.

Test can detect early Alzheimer's

By NIGEL HAWKES AND ANJANA AHUJA

A NEW test for Alzheimer's disease can detect those at risk two years before they develop definitive symptoms, Cambridge researchers claim.

The computer-based test could prove useful once effective drugs are available to slow the course of the disease. At present it would give those about to suffer memory loss an advance warning that might be unwelcome.

The Canlab test takes only a few minutes and uses touchscreen computer tasks that test short-term visual memory to measure cognitive decline.

The test measures the ability to lay down new short-term memories, something that declines in those developing Alzheimer's before symptoms become obvious.

So far 70 people have taken the test which correctly identi-

fied all those who developed Alzheimer's. It did, however, pinpoint as likely Alzheimer victims several who did not develop the disease, giving a 12 per cent "false positive" rate.

The test was developed by Professor Barbara Sahakian and Trevor Robbins at Cambridge University. It is being commercialised by a spin-off company, CeNeS, which claims it can distinguish Alzheimer's from normal ageing, as well as other forms of dementia and depression.

Trials to validate the test are planned in hospitals in Bath and Edinburgh.

Variations of the Alzheimer's test can be used to assess patients with Parkinson's disease and Huntington's chorea.

Dementia fight, page 15

No-show patients cost NHS £275m

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is planning a campaign to encourage patients to turn up for their hospital appointments after it emerged that missed visits are costing the National Health Service more than a quarter of a billion pounds a year.

Patients failed to turn up for 5.5 million appointments out of a total of 40 million between 1996 and 1997, according to figures released by the Department of Health yesterday.

The worst record is in the North Thames region, where more than 14 per cent of patients do not show up for appointments.

The department estimates that each missed outpatient appointment costs the NHS between £20 and £30 in wasted administrative costs, such as sending out new appointment letters, informing GPs and unnecessary ambulance

journeys. On average, this costs the NHS up to £275 million each year.

Health officials said that part of the problem was caused by poor hospital management. Some administrators fail to send out prompting letters or make telephone calls to remind patients to turn up.

Surveys have shown that about a third of people say that they simply forgot they had an appointment. Other patients claim they did not have an appointment and a small minority say they were too ill to attend.

A source close to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said that the new NHS charter, to replace the Patient's Charter, would emphasise that although patients had rights, they also had responsibilities towards healthcare workers.

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Cruise Bar's for li

Son's lover 'killed by his father'

Murder remand

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End of weapon

Mummy's lads

Test can detect early Alzheimer's

No-show patients cost NHS £275m

Ravine fall saved with a

Cruise hires the Bar's top gun for libel trial

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE CARMAN, QC, may have fallen out of the million-a-year lawyers' club but he has clinched his position as QC of choice for the rich and famous.

The silver-tongued QC, known in the profession as "gorgeous George", has been hired by Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise for a libel action they have lodged against the *Express* on Sunday.

The trial, listed for November, will see both film stars in the witness box in a courtroom encounter likely to match those of Imran Khan and Ian Botham or Richard Branson and GTech in popular appeal.

Cruise and Kidman are suing *Express* Newspapers over an article in the magazine section on Sunday, October 5, 1997. It concerned the couple's motives for marriage and the adoption of their two children.

Mr Carman was omitted from the latest survey of top-earning QCs, known as the "million-a-year club", the top 15 barristers said by Chambers & Partners new directory of the legal profession to be grossing £1 million a year.

However, the view among some lawyers is that if Mr Carman is not earning a million, he must be very close to it. This year alone he

Frances Gibb on the film star's choice of the lawyer they call gorgeous George

successfully acted for the Barclay brothers in their appeal against a refusal of licence applications, adding an estimated £50 million to the value of the Ritz Hotel.

His fee for that has been estimated at anything up to £500,000, and in the Branson versus G-Tech case he is thought to have earned £250,000. Also this year was the Marks & Spencer win against Granada Television over a programme alleging exploitation of child labour.

But the Kidman/Cruise trial will no longer see Mr Carman pitched against his old adversary, Charles Gray, QC. Mr Gray has just been promoted to the High Court bench.

The trial is set down for a week. In the meantime, Mr Carman is turning his hand to telling business leaders how to "find the truth", with a glimpse into how he approaches cross-examination, detects lies and traps the

dishonest. Next month he is advising 300 businessmen on the art of detecting lies and fraud in business at a seminar to be held by the Maxima Group plc, which specialises in prevention, investigation and recovery of losses caused by fraud, negligence or error.

Kidman, 31, and Cruise, 36, and their adopted children Isabella, five, and Connor, three, live in Central London where privacy is easier for them to find than on the other side of the Atlantic.

Kidman is starring to sell-out audiences in *The Blue Room* at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre, London, for which she is earning £250 a week rather than the £5 million she can collect for a film.

The couple recently finished shooting *Eyes Wide Shut* for Stanley Kubrick at Pinewood, in London, a tale of jealousy and sexual obsession. Cruise previously starred in *Top Gun* and *Mission Impossible*.



The Prince of Wales at St Mark's Primary School, Brighton. He was shocked at the dearth of books in its library

Prince's plea for estate children

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Prince of Wales appealed yesterday to Britain's business leaders to help to regenerate rundown housing estates and improve education opportunities for the children who live on them.

Stealing a march on the Prime Minister, who is today due to unveil a £800 million rescue package for the worst estates, the Prince called on the private sector to take a direct stake in community projects by giving supplies, cash and free professional advice and support.

During a visit to St Mark's Primary School on the Whitehawk estate in Brighton, the Prince said that putting more resources into primary education was the best way of breaking the cycle of poverty and underachievement.

After sitting in on a reading lesson with a class of 10-year-olds, the Prince was shocked to discover that the school's budget was so stretched that there were hardly any books in its library.

Son's lover 'killed by his father'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG woman was lured to her death on a river towpath by her boyfriend's father on the pretext of sorting out her relationship with his son, it was alleged yesterday.

Unknown to Stephen Hughes, his walk with Rachel Barraclough, 18, across the centre of Wakefield to the bridge over the river Calder was recorded on closed-circuit TV cameras, a jury at Leeds Crown Court was told. The video showed Mr Hughes, 47, and the girl vanish off camera and then him reappear alone almost two hours later.

Miss Barraclough's body was discovered 24 hours later, about 20 minutes' walk from the point where they were last seen. She had died shortly after she went out of view from camera, the court heard. She had been sexually assaulted, stabbed four times and had her throat cut. She had been going out with Mr Hughes' son Carl, 21, for eight months.

Mr Hughes, a former miner from Wakefield who worked as a chef, denies the murder on September 5 last year. He was arrested five days later but refused to discuss whether it was him on the recording, Paul Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said. The trial continues.

Murder trial nurse 'was a battered wife'

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

JURY selection was due to begin yesterday in the Florida trial of Helen Cummings, a pregnant British nurse, who is accused of murdering her unfaithful American husband on Valentine's Day.

If found guilty, Mrs Cummings, 33, from Preston, faces a maximum of 30 years in jail but her lawyers will argue that she shot her husband four times as a consequence of battered wives' syndrome and post-natal depression.

Ms Cummings allegedly killed her husband, Tyler Cummings, 30, on February 14 as he lay in bed, moments after she had discovered photographs of him with a naked woman. Days before his death, Mrs Cummings confided to friends that she suspected her husband was having an affair.

According to her lawyers, Mrs Cummings was trapped in an abusive relationship with a husband who threatened her with a gun on more than one occasion and tried to choke her when she said she might leave him.

The couple, married in 1995, also have a one-year-old son who is living with Mrs Cummings' parents in Preston.



Claire Cater at home with Jasper after his ordeal

Ravine fall baby saved with a smile

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A BABY survived a 300ft plunge down a French ravine in a car after his father, who had parked to take a photograph, saw the vehicle rolling down the slope through the lens of his camera.

Nigel Ryan, 40, watched helplessly as it gathered speed before hurtling down the ravine by the Pont de Terenez, a vine suspension bridge near Crozon, Brittany.

The graphic designer from Ardingly, West Sussex, clambered down the ravine to find his four-month-old son Jasper smiling at him from his baby seat with nothing more than two scratches to his cheek.

He said yesterday: "I can't put into words what was going through my mind when I saw the car disappear over the

edge. One minute I was taking pictures, the next I was running down the ravine after my baby."

Mr Ryan, 40, and his partner, Claire Cater, 35, had stopped to take some holiday snaps at the notorious accident blackspot. Mr Ryan had lined up Ms Cater in the viewfinder only to see his 15-year-old son and baby hurtling towards the ravine.

He said locals had dubbed the incident "le miracle" because previously no one whose vehicle had gone down the ravine had survived. Jean Pierre Ladez, the mechanic who recovered the car, said: "I have seen lots of accidents at this spot and I can tell you I have never seen anything as miraculous as this."

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The Times 15/9/98



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Heads call for GCSE in leadership skills

Schools put exam success ahead of initiative, writes John O'Leary

PRESSURE for good academic results is forcing schools to abandon activities designed to produce important leadership skills, a group of state and independent school head teachers claimed yesterday.

A report sponsored by an expeditions company and backed by the Secondary Heads Association called for a new leadership qualification to be given the same status as a GCSE examination. The group, chaired by Nicholas Bomford, headmaster of Harrow School, said the subject should be included in the review of the national curriculum due to be completed next year.

The 83-page report, which draws on leadership schemes run in schools, says that the "excessive" pressure to shine in examination league tables has damaged extra-curricular activities. Funding shortages have also helped to deny opportunities to pupils.

The ten-strong working party found that many families could not afford the costs associated with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the best-known leadership training scheme. Many local authorities were closing their outdoor activity centres, which provided an economical alternative for many schools.

Even the Combined Cadet Force, which still thrives in many independent schools, was threatened by successive

defence reviews, the report said. Mr Bomford said he hoped that the 300 cadet forces would survive intact but there was little prospect of extending the activity to more schools.

The report, *Developing Leadership in Schools*, says that opportunities for expeditions, projects and field work "have never been greater" for some schools and pupils. It calls for business sponsorship to help young people from poor backgrounds joining expeditions.

However, the authors cite more mundane activities such as becoming a prefect or raising money for charity as valuable contributions to the

leadership process. The report calls for Ofsted to include pupils' experience of leadership and development of responsibility in its inspection of schools and for individual successes to be included in a revised National Record of Achievement.

Among the schemes featured by Michael Duffy, the former headmaster who wrote the report, was the award made by the Chase High School, in Malvern, Worcestershire, which requires pupils to master 20 personal skills, from punctuality and a willingness to accept advice to attendance on a residential course and performing in a team, drama production or

musical event. Charles Rigby, the chairman of World Challenge Expeditions, which sponsored the report, said: "We believe there is widespread concern about aspects of educational life that are missing. We recognise that there is not a lot of money to spend on education, but we have spent a lot of time investigating how money can be raised."

The report was welcomed by Sandy Adamson, head of the Government's Standards and Effectiveness Unit. A dozen pupils and teachers on a World Challenge expedition told yesterday how their hotel was reduced to rubble just after they had left it to eat lunch outside. The group, from Trinity School, in Nottingham, survived an earthquake registering 7.1 on the Richter scale, which injured scores of people and saw cliffs collapse into the sea.

The earthquake happened in Canoa, Ecuador, where the school party completed a month-long expedition, mountain-trekking and doing voluntary work in the rain forests. Abigail Daly, 17, said: "We didn't know what was happening because none of us had ever been in an earthquake before. We had all been expecting a bit of danger and excitement but nothing like this."

A spokesman said no one from the expedition was hurt in the earthquake.

Protesting tunnellers build link to Europe

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

BRITAIN'S most successful green protesters are passing on their skills in tunnelling and treehouse-building to their European counterparts at a camp designed to beat the bailiffs.

In return, veterans of Britain's many anti-road protests are learning more about stopping nuclear convoys. The pool of international expertise is being shared at the camp in a forest in Staffordshire where a group of protesters have constructed a tunnel fortress on the proposed route of Britain's first toll motorway.

Protesters, who want to stop construction of the 27-mile Birmingham Northern Relief Road to link the M42 at Coleshill, Warwickshire, and the M6 at Cannock, Staffordshire, claim that bailiffs will face defences that could take them a month to break.

Campaigners from Germany, Poland, France and Sweden hope to learn similar skills to halt developments which they say threaten the environment in their own countries, such as a proposed motorway from Dresden to Prague.

Frank, 20, who arrived from Dresden two weeks ago, said: "Already I have learnt that tunnels are the best form of defence and the British protesters are the best at building them. It has been very good for me to see how difficult the British are making it for the authorities."



Gillian Howard, whose generosity was inspired by Frederick Kempf's playing

Talented young pianist given £74,000 Steinway

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN OUTSTANDING young British musician so hard up that he had to sell his own piano has been given a £74,000 Steinway by a benefactor inspired by his playing at this year's Tchaikovsky competition.

Frederick Kempf, 20, is a student at the Royal Academy of Music whose Principal says he is one of the most talented musicians to have studied there. Since he sold his instrument two years ago he has been "struggling to stay afloat" and renting the smallest piano he could find, an upright for £50 a month, he said yesterday.

He was "astounded" by the generosity of his benefactor, Gillian Howard, who was once bought a Steinway by her parents. "Having a Steinway is my dream," he said.

Ms Howard, an employment lawyer who runs her own practice, was unaware of his plight. She made the gift in memory of her parents, Margaret and Alexander Howard. She said that her mother, a physiotherapist who had trained as a



Mr Kempf and the rented upright in his flat

pianist who had trained as a barrister, was a wonderful pianist. Her parents died young and she sold the Steinway.

Ms Howard had been inspired by the way that Mr Kempf wowed audiences at the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow. Although he did not win he was given standing ovations.

Although the chairman of the prize, Tikhon Khrennikov, singled him out for particular praise, he came third after two Moscow-trained Russians, Curtis Price, Principal of the Royal

Academy of Music, said that the Tchaikovsky competition had become notorious for its decisions.

However, recording contracts and recital offers have flowed in since then. Among various concerts, Mr Kempf will be performing Chopin, Granados and Liszt at the Wigmore Hall, London, on October 28 — a lunchtime recital that will be broadcast live on Radio 3.

Now Mr Kempf has just one problem — the Steinway does not fit into his tiny flat in West Hampstead, London. "I'm trying to work out where to put it," he said.

One in five cars fails emission tests

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ONE in five cars fails tests for illegal levels of exhaust emissions, it was announced yesterday as a campaign was launched to cut pollution.

In some cases cars that are only three years old do not meet acceptable standards, prompting ministers to ask motorists to voluntarily test their vehicles or risk a £60 fine. The testing system is being trialled in seven towns and cities across Britain. Local authorities in the pilot areas can impose penalties, using the money to fund the police tests. They must also offer free voluntary tests.

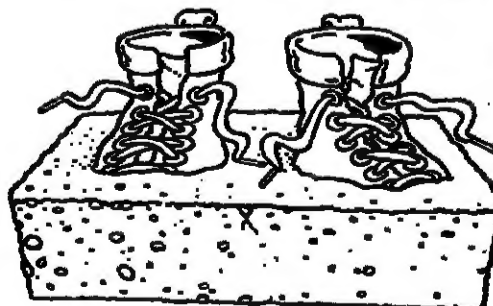
Results from the trials of roadside penalties and voluntary tests are almost identical. Eighteen per cent of cars stopped by police fail the test, and seventeen per cent of vehicles tested voluntarily fall below legal levels.

Cars owned by young drivers are most likely to fail.

The voluntary tests finish next month, and the roadside tests end at the end of the year, when ministers will decide whether to extend the schemes nationally.

The *Stop Fuming!* campaign was launched yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to encourage drivers to service their vehicles and check exhausts. Free checks are available in Birmingham, Bristol, Canterbury, Glasgow, Middlesbrough, Swansea and Westminster, Leicester, Nottingham and Derby are also offering free tests, although they are not involved in the roadside test pilot project.

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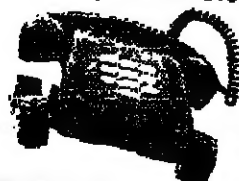


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Hague offers business an e-mail olive branch

By NICHOLAS WOOD

WILLIAM HAGUE will begin his biggest charm offensive this week aimed at wooing back British businessmen to the Tory cause. The party leader is writing to 7,000 captains of industry inviting them to sign up to a two-way computerised link with party headquarters.

He is promising them instant reports on major business issues and inviting them to give their views on Tory attacks on govern-

ment decisions. According to senior Tory officials, the aim of the e-mail link-up is to reclaim one of the Tory "heartlands" ceded to Labour at the election. The business liaison unit set up by Mr Hague earlier this year has contacts with 900 firms.

By keeping in regular touch with directors and consulting them on their views, Mr Hague hopes to restore the traditional close links with British industry and commerce badly strained under the previous Government. Tory officials

said that after Mr Hague's decision to ballot his party on his opposition to a European single currency, they had had more than 100 messages of support from company chiefs. In other cases, instant boardroom feedback on business matters had helped to shape Tory contributions to Commons debates.

In his letter, Mr Hague says that in addition to the regular e-mail bulletins from the business unit, firms will get a monthly summary

of the main political developments relevant to the boardroom. Items covered by the service include the Bank of England's decisions on interest rates, the crisis in manufacturing industry and the transport White Paper. Recipients of the free service are being promised that they will be among the first to hear the Tory response to Gordon Brown's next Budget.

Mr Hague will step up his efforts at the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth next month.

He will host a reception for businessmen on the first evening of the conference and working lunches and dinners with senior Shadow Cabinet members are planned for the following days.

The reception is being sponsored by the anti-euro group Business for Sterling — a further sign that Mr Hague regards winning over the business community as critical to his determination to oppose Tony Blair over scrapping the pound.

Tory officials believe that Labour gained significantly at the last general election from the close links with industry and commerce forged in opposition. The spectacle of businessmen and Labour politicians sharing platforms at stage-managed events helped to reassure voters that it was safe to support Mr Blair.

But they believe that since the election Mr Blair and his advisers have been more interested in squeezing money out of their corporate backers than in consult-

ing them. According to weekend reports, Labour stands to make £300,000 at its conference from sponsorship deals and £200,000 from ticket sales.

The Conservatives said that they were keeping separate fundraising and business links. Charles Hendry, the former Tory MP who heads the business liaison unit, said: "We want to involve them [the business community] directly in the rebuilding of the Conservative Party."

Call to replace jury trial for complex fraud

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Serious Fraud Office yesterday called for an end to jury trial in complex frauds and its replacement with a judge and lay assessors. Rosalind Wright said that the criminal justice system was "falling down" in the handling of cases where it had not caught up with the pace of modern commercial life.

"The process of trial by jury has simply become too unwieldy," Ms Wright told the 16th International Symposium on Economic Crime at Jesus College, Cambridge.

She also called for what she described as a kind of "one-stop shopping" in fraud cases in which criminal judges would be given some of the powers of regulators, enabling them to close down fraudulently run businesses, to make a banning order blacklisting them from all commercial activities and to freeze a company's assets before criminal charges were laid. Ms Wright said that this would end the present duplication in which an offender may be reluctant to plead guilty to criminal charges in case the regulators decide to investigate him again.

The time had come to consider replacing juries in the most complex and lengthy cases. This was not because too many defendants were acquitted. "We have, after all, secured convictions in every trial we have prosecuted in the past two years."

Nor was it because juries

were unable to understand complex commercial transactions. But some cases required jurors to demonstrate and understand allegations involving a complex series of transactions which had taken place over a period of months or years. "It is in these cases that I think the criminal justice system is falling down at the moment," she said.

Her comments come as the Home Office analyses responses to a consultation paper which outlines several alternatives to trial by jury in complex fraud cases. Ms Wright said that her own preference was for a judge sitting with specially qualified lay members (but not specialist assessors) drawn from the area that was the subject matter of the case.

Specialist assessors could function as expert witnesses but their knowledge could not be tested, she said. They might be "continually feeding" the judge (a layman himself so far as commercial or financial knowledge was concerned) market knowledge which was out-of-date. Instead she favoured a "financially or commercially aware lay member," someone with a banking, accountancy or stockbroking background that was relevant to the charges.

She added that it should be for the judge, after hearing from prosecution and defence, to decide whether a case was suitable for jury trial or for the alternative mode of trial she is suggesting.



Whitehall link to Downing Street: the elegant circular courtyard where Treasury ministers park



Lister collection: former Chancellors, from left, Hugh Childers, Lord Randolph Churchill and Chamberlain

Treasury opens its doors – and art – to public

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Chancellor's private office is to be open to the public for the first time as part of a series of Heritage Open Days.

Visitors will be able to walk through the main entrance on Whitehall and up the stone staircase to the Chancellor's inner sanctum. Armchair economists will even be allowed to sit on Gordon Brown's modern pale pink high-backed chair to mull over the nation's finances.

It is from this long, narrow oak-panelled room with contemporary paintings by Graham Sutherland that the Chancellor has taken key decisions relating to the Budget and the comprehensive spending review.

But visitors looking for the human side of the "Iron Chancellor" will be disappointed. Mr Brown keeps no personal clutter in the office and has no photograph of his longtime girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay, on display.

There is a firm reminder of his Scottish roots, however, with a painting called *Peelshire Landscape* by the artist William George Gillies. Also part of the event will be an exhibition of pictures last shown by the Treasury 50 years ago. Put together by R.A. Lister, a former Librarian of the Board of Trade, the collection of watercolours, engravings and newspaper cuttings has been set up in a grand conference room with a balcony overlooking Whitehall where Winston Churchill addressed the crowds on VE

Day. Its historical significance these days is rather lost to Treasury officials today, who in typical bureaucratic fashion refer to it as Room 29.

A centrepiece of the exhibition is a 17th-century oil painting, *Whitehall Palace from the Park*, by Hendrick Danckerts, which has been borrowed from the ante-room outside the main Cabinet Room at Downing Street.

As visitors leave the building they will also be able to walk through the great circular courtyard which links the Treasury via a series of carriage entrances to No 10. This was the route famously used by former Tory Chancellor, Lord Lamont, to escape reporters on the day Britain pulled out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

The Treasury tour, this weekend is expected to be the first stop on a tour of Whitehall which will also include the Cabinet Office, where the remains of Henry VIII's tennis court will be on display, and the sumptuous state rooms at the Foreign Office.

Last night Mr Brown said the Treasury move was an "important" step. "Many of us who live and work around Whitehall grow to take this part of our heritage almost for granted. It deserves to be recognised and seen more widely for the human perspective it gives to the heart of Government through the centuries," he said.

The Treasury will open on September 19 and 20 from 10am to 5pm.

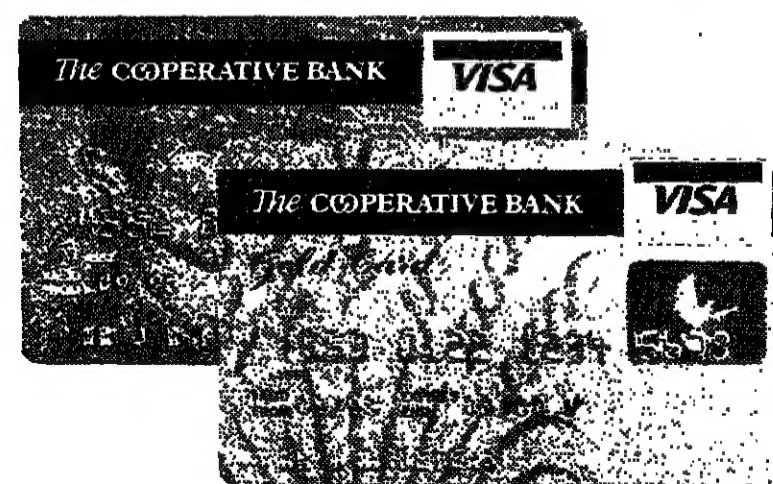
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Police forces 'may have to lose 5,000 officers'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces will have to leave thousands of jobs unfilled to meet new budget controls, senior commanders said yesterday.

At least six forces are already drawing up plans to halt recruiting and not replace officers who retire. The Metropolitan Police has cut 400 places in the past year and more economies are predicted. In all up to 5,000 officers could be lost from the total strength of 126,000 in England and Wales within two years.

The situation comes after the Government's comprehensive spending review and the announcement that chief constables will have to show greater efficiency and economies in the next two years or lose agreed budget increases.

The risk of reduced numbers was highlighted yesterday by leaders of the Police Superintendents' Association which is holding its annual

national conference in Bristol today. Jack Straw is to speak at the conference tomorrow when his leadership will raise its anxieties with him.

Yesterday Chief Superintendent Peter Gammon, the association president, said that at least six forces – including large urban and smaller rural forces – were considering manpower cuts. He said: "We think the figures could involve thousands: a couple of thousand at least and it could be more."

Mr Gammon said the decision on efficiency was for chief constables but there were other ways of cutting costs apart from simply reducing numbers. He said he did not think the Home Secretary would want to see numbers cut and he would be looking for other ways to achieve savings.

Chief Superintendent Des Parkinson, the association's national secretary, said that

forces have not used the case provided to fulfil John Major's pledge several years ago to put 5,000 extra officers on the street. Forces were already starting with a shortfall in numbers before fresh cuts.

The conference will also debate whether new controls should be placed on the police when they use special surveillance equipment. Speakers including John Wadham, the director of the civil rights group Liberty, will address the conference but Mr Gammon said the association did not want to see more restraints.

At the moment the decision is made by senior commanders and can be tested in the courts on a case-by-case basis. If a legal framework with a binding code of practice is introduced police fear that lawyers would look for loopholes to stop evidence getting into court and criminals would avoid justice.

Blair may host G8 crisis talks

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is likely to host an emergency summit of the world's leading industrial nations to discuss the economic crisis in the Far East and Russia.

Tony Blair, present chairman of the G8 group, is consulting fellow leaders about holding the meeting in London over the next few weeks. Last night Gordon Brown flew to Japan for talks on the Asian financial collapse.

The Chancellor is resisting domestic demands to relax his fight against inflation, while being responsible for co-ordinating action against the threat of global recession.

Mr Blair is expected today to brief President Yeltsin over the telephone on yesterday's talks in London between G8 officials.

Primakov pledge, page 12
Richard Overby, page 18
Business, page 27

Many MPs want taxes run by EU

By ROLAND WATSON

A SUBSTANTIAL number of Labour MPs believe that Westminster should surrender control over a range of taxes to Brussels.

More than four out of ten think that VAT and company tax should be harmonised across the European Union, according to a survey.

An even greater number, more than 55 per cent, support giving Brussels responsibility for setting environmental taxes and excise duty. Seventeen per cent go the whole way and believe that even personal taxes should be taken away from Westminster and set centrally. However, 37 per cent believe that the disadvantages of EU membership outweigh the benefits.

The findings, in a survey by Nottingham Trent University, also reveal that 25 per cent of Tory MPs believe that Britain should pull out of the EU.

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Modern show to replace Royal Tournament

THE Royal Tournament is to be axed after 118 years in favour of a more modern display of the work of the Services, because of falling audience figures and rising costs. Despite having introduced the *Gladiators* television game-show to spice up the traditional programme of marching bands, tri-service spectaculars and the famous field gun competition, the Ministry of Defence has been left with acres of empty seats.

The Royal Tournament will be held for the last time at Earls Court next summer and for the millennium it will be replaced by an event based on a different concept under a new name, likely to be outside at Horse Guards Parade, which will allow for a military flypast.

The future of the tournament will be decided by an MoD management committee on which all three Services will be represented. The Royal Family is also expected to be consulted and the royal patronage continued.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday: "The Royal Tournament has served us well for a great many years but as we approach the millennium it is timely for us to take a fresh look at this traditional event. This is a new beginning, not an end, of the Royal Tournament and my aim is to make it more relevant and modern,

Acres of empty seats prompt updating of 118-year-old event, reports

Michael Evans

whilst retaining an element of pageantry."

The Royal Tournament has been criticised for many years for attracting dwindling interest from the public but also because of the increasing pressure on the three Armed Forces, whose manpower has been reduced by 30 per cent since 1990. But despite rumours of its imminent demise in recent years, the Service chiefs were keen to preserve the Royal Tournament in some form, partly because it helped to boost recruiting.

The tri-service show in July 2000 will be a special event for the millennium. If it is successful it will point the way to new format for the future.

The MoD said that it was considering staging a military tattoo and a *son et lumière* event but Earls Court was no longer regarded as a suitable location. One idea is to create a "time tunnel", displaying the past, present and future from

a military perspective, a spokesman said. It was likely the new format would be given a different name.

The first show, called the Grand Military Tournament and Assault at Arms, was strictly for the Army and opened on June 22, 1880 at the Agricultural Hall in Islington, North London. It consisted of competitions designed to encourage skill at arms.

In 1882, the first display consisting of a musical ride by the 1st Life Guards, was included in the programme. Two years later Queen Victoria became patron and gave permission for the royal prefix to be added to the title. The Royal Navy first took part in 1897, and in 1906 the tournament moved to Olympia where it continued until 1950, with interruptions during the world wars. The tournament moved to Earls Court in 1950.

This year tournament attracted 201,000 people over the two weeks, compared with 204,000 the previous year. Earls Court seats 18,000 a night.

Hugh Scrimgeour, head of Earls Court Olympia, said: "We have been aware that for several years the Ministry of Defence has been considering the future of this great event due to increasing constraints on service manpower." He planned to make sure that the last tournament next summer would be "the best ever".



The cast of *Frasier*: the Seattle sitcom made television history after breaking an Emmy awards record jointly held by *Cheers*

Neurosis is the winning formula

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

A COMEDY about a hopelessly neurotic psychiatrist made television history at the weekend as America's gaudiest medium congratulated itself on its first half century at the fiftieth annual Emmy Awards. *Frasier*, the unlikely hit about two Seattle brothers who are obsessed with the opera and their own self-esteem, won its fifth consecutive Emmy for a comedy series during a marathon awards show.

The *Frasier* award broke a record last equalled by *Cheers*, the seminal sitcom set in a downtown Boston watering hole that spawned the character of Dr Frasier Crane, one of the brothers in *Frasier*. The series also took two major

acting prizes, with Kelsey Grammer winning for the third time for his performance in the title role and a stunned David Hyde Pierce chosen as best supporting actor in a comedy. Hearing his name announced, he said, was "like a train wreck".

British stars have featured prominently in past Emmy ceremonies but went home empty-handed on Sunday night. Jane Seymour and Tracey Ullman were among the disappointed nominees; squeezed out by Christine Lahti of *Chicago Hope* in the drama category and a triumphant Helen Hunt in the contest for best lead actress in a comedy. By winning for her role in *Mad About You*,

Ms Hunt, who also starred in the film *As Good As It Gets*, became the first actress to win an Emmy and an Oscar in the same year.

It was a night when three pillars of American network television were snubbed — *Seinfeld*, *ER* and *The X-Files* missed out in all the major categories — but television itself was earnestly hailed as a pioneering force for good.

Ellen DeGeneres, whose eponymous sitcom has been cancelled by ABC since its ratings peaked when she and her character came out as lesbians, extolled the medium as "a way to feel represented, to feel validated and say, 'that's me, there's someone else like me out there!'"



Hunt won an Emmy and an Oscar this year

Hemingway's notes for a Hollywood novel are auction's star lot

BY JOHN SHAW



Hemingway: accused friends of "selling out"

NOTES written by Ernest Hemingway for a book about Hollywood in the 1930s have come to light at a small auction house in West Sussex. The project had a working title of *Hollywood Express* and the unpublished material is contained in a pink folder signed jokingly "Dr Ernest Hemingway". It includes illustrations believed to be by Martha Gellhorn, one of Hemingway's four wives.

The material was compiled when his friends were, as he put it, "selling out to Hollywood". Most of

the pieces relate to stars of the period such as Nelson Eddy, Jeanette MacDonald and Clark Gable. The folder is part of a huge archive of largely unknown and personal letters, photographs and other Hemingway memorabilia, including his typewriter, being sold by Denham, in Warrnam, on September 30.

Hemingway, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954, shot himself in a fit of depression in 1961. One of his greatest books, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, was inspired by his experiences reporting the Spanish Civil War. He retained a

lifelong affection for the country and the items on sale were owned by Ricardo Sire, a Spanish businessman who had a large international social circle and worked for US intelligence. They are being sold by his son, Jay Sire, a businessman in Madrid.

Hemingway was known for his macho lifestyle and love of bullfighting. One of the star lots is a silk jacket given to the writer by the matador Manolete, who wore it in the bullring and presented it to Hemingway in 1945 on VE Day.

The collection evokes the hedonism of postwar international café

society. There is, for example, a policeman's helmet that was knocked off an officer's head and stolen during drunken horseplay in Gibraltar. It is signed by Maria Callas, Clark Gable, Errol Flynn and Gary Cooper.

High bids are expected for Hemingway's black Remington portable typewriter, stamped with the initials "EH" and used when he was a correspondent during the Second World War. The typewriter was later given to Ava Gardner, who used it to write poetry at the home of Robert Graves in Majorca.

There is also a selection of vintage

clothing that Graves gave Ms Gardner to wear in one of her films. It includes a kimono once owned by Lawrence of Arabia and given to Graves by Churchill in 1932.

There is a shotgun that was given as a Christmas present to Ms Gardner when she was filming *Mogambo* with Clark Gable in Kenya in 1952. At the time she was married to Frank Sinatra and there are photographs of the couple in the auction together with one of the actress's black bras in a frame.

The collection includes signed copies of *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *To Have*

And Have Not and a gastronomic guide to France, described in the catalogue as "Martha Gellhorn's bible". It is inscribed and signed "Ritz, Paris, 1945, to Ricardo and Betty. No better hostess could offer more, thank you for having me, good and bad — please give our love to everybody in Madrid. Own times have been so full and fine. With very best wishes, Ernest Hemingway."

There is also a Louis Vuitton document case, the interior of which the Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali painted with an exotic scene during Christmas 1960. It is sold with a certificate of authentication.

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Primakov pledges to keep reforms



Russia's newly appointed Prime Minister is flexing his muscles, writes Anna Blundy

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, Russia's new Prime Minister, asserted his new-found authority yesterday, consolidating his Government and telling ministers that Russia's reform programme would go ahead, but its first priority would be the Russian people.

He tried to allay fears about the continuing economic crisis and assured his new Cabinet that their jobs were secure. It was his first day in his new job after the Duma, Russia's communist-dominated lower house of parliament, finally voted him in as Prime Minister on Friday.

In response to his appointment, the rouble perked up to 8.649 to the dollar and Muscovites took to the streets to enjoy the Indian summer. Mr Primakov said the payment of wage arrears and pensions would be his main priority. How he intends to fulfil his promises remains to be seen.

"He doesn't have a dime," one Western economist said. But Mr Primakov has made clear that although reforms would not be stopped dead in their tracks, there would be a change of emphasis in economic policy. The sunnier side of that will be increased efforts to prop up the crumbling welfare state, but however well intentioned that may be, it is likely to result in hyperinflation and



Yevgeni Primakov in his office in Moscow on his first full day as Russian Prime Minister yesterday. He also presided at the first meeting of his new Cabinet

the death-knell of the brief economic boom.

Rumours that the Government and the Central Bank have printed four billion roubles to ease the economic crisis have been denied by the men Mr Primakov has placed in senior economic appointments. Yuri Maslyukov, former head of the State Planning Committee in Soviet times, and Viktor Gerashchenko, now head of the Central Bank for the second time in his long career.

The new Government's constant insistence that unpaid wages are its main priority must have allowed pensioners and state employees to bask

more happily in the sunshine this weekend, and even Western observers are admitting that there might now be a glimmer of hope for Russia.

One thing worrying the West and many Russian reformers is the number of old-style Communists being appointed to Mr Primakov's Government. Most notable among them are Yuri Zubakov and Robert Markarian, both of whom followed Mr Primakov into the Foreign Intelligence Service and then went with him to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Although Mr Primakov has made a big play of having a free hand to choose his Government, Mr Maslyukov has announced that all the ideas proposed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr Primakov's ousted rival, will in fact be included in the new programme now being formulated. Mr Chernomyrdin himself, seemingly unimpressed by the Duma, has announced his intention to run for President in 2000.

Although Mr Primakov appears to have made an authoritative start, he has a tough job ahead of him. If hyperinflation turns out to be the result of his new economic emphasis, the winter could be long and hard.

Patch unlikely, page 18

Picasso painting lost in Swissair jet crash

By CHRIS BROADHURST

A PICASSO, diamonds and banknotes were lost with the Swissair jet that crashed off Nova Scotia earlier this month.

The Painter, worth about \$15 million (\$890,000), was in a normal freight container and was destroyed, a Swissair spokesman said yesterday. The flight was also carrying nearly 110lb of banknotes. The money was being sent by an American bank to another bank in Switzerland, the airline said.

A quantity of gems and watches were also lost in the crash off the Canadian coast that killed all 229 on board. In the

hold was also a "diplomatic consignment" and an unidentified work of art.

The containers holding the valuables have reinforced walls and an aluminium door with a special lock and metal seal. Swissair said. "Containers of this kind are not shockproof and fireproof. It should be assumed that the valuables container did not remain undamaged in the crash." Swissair cargo shipments are normally insured at \$20 a kilogram, excluding any policies the shippers of goods take out.

Swissair also confirmed reports on Sunday that the plane was carrying a locked box possibly containing millions of dollars in cash and gold. The airline, which frequently transports money in and out of

Geneva, would not reveal the amount on board the flight that crashed on September 2 after a fire on board.

Wayne Noonan, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, refused to say how much money was involved but said the bills were in a safe in the cargo hold. "The money was secured in a fire-and-shock-proof container and wrapped in such a manner that it would not [have] floated even if the box busted open," he said.

USS Grapple, a US Navy salvage ship, was preparing yesterday to begin lifting large pieces of the demolished jet from the ocean floor near Peggy's Cove. Its primary targets are five sections of fuselage lying in about 190ft of water.

Bavaria victory boosts Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, said yesterday the tide was turning in his favour and that his Christian Democrat-led Government would be returned to power in a fortnight.

His optimism was the result of a resounding regional election victory by the Christian Social Union, his Bavarian sister party, and a poor result by the Social Democrats. Herr Kohl proclaimed this to be a model for the general election on September 27. "The voters have shown that they reject an alliance between Social Democrats and Greens."

His challenger, Gerhard Schröder, said it was disappointing but not significant because Bavarians were not asked "whether to get rid of a used-up Chancellor who lives in the past". Herr Schröder ascribed the victory to the popularity of Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian state leader.

Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats still lag between 3 and 6 per cent behind the Social Democrats. His campaign managers have taken a dramatic step: they are trying to brand opposition politicians as terrorist sympathisers.

Last week, French police, acting on a German request, arrested Hans-Joachim Klein, a former accomplice of Carlos the Jackal, in Normandy. Since there has been no secret about his whereabouts for the past 20 years, the arrest is seen as part of the poll campaign, to make a point about the opposition leaders. Joseph Fischer, the Greens' leader, once lent his car to Herr Klein, who used it to transport guns.

Otto Schilly, tipped to be Interior Minister in a Schröder government, was defence lawyer for members of the Baader-Meinhof gang. Herr Schröder, in his early career as a lawyer, defended the terrorist Horst Mahler.

Dirty campaigning may be enough to swing the many undecided voters.



Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's CSU leader

Tiananmen hardliner dies at 92

Beijing, China. The President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Liang Hui, died at the age of 92. He was a prominent figure in the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

ALAN CLARK FORUM

Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister. The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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سكزا من الأهل

Mercenaries hijack war in Kashmir

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN URI, WESTERN KASHMIR

FOREIGN Islamic mercenaries have all but hijacked the Muslim uprising in India's Kashmir Valley, their zealotry heightened by the near-collapse of Afghanistan by the extreme Taliban militia. It is a sign that religious fanaticism in Afghanistan is starting to be felt across the region.

One newly-arrived group, Taleban-i-Kashmir, ordered women to start wearing a head-to-toe veil from last Friday. Most Kashmiris ignored it, but the instruction has raised fears that Taleban's influence could threaten the tolerant Sufi traditions of the valley. Taleban-i-Kashmir has already made clear its disapproval of the Sufi tradition of using idols in worship.

India, understood to have 250,000 troops in Kashmir, is capable of repelling any direct assault by Taleban. Direct confrontation is unlikely, but Taleban will have direct access to the Pakistani side of the former princely state of Kashmir, with which it shares a short border. If it captures the northeastern corner of Afghanistan — one of the few regions outside its control.

It would then be a clear journey to the Indian border in Kashmir, much of it through tribal areas that are effectively outside the jurisdiction of the Pakistan Government. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has issued warnings about the possible spread of Taleban's influence.

There is no longer an effective Kashmiri guerrilla group left in the valley. Foreign Islamic mercenaries are firmly

in control of an uprising that began in 1989 as a local rebellion against perceived religious discrimination.

Most senior state government positions were held by Hindus and decades of corruption left the state poor. Almost all elections were rigged to ensure a pro-India result.

Pakistan's influence in spreading Islamic extremism in Kashmir is pivotal. Jamaat-i-Islami, the biggest fundamentalist group in Pakistan, privately admits to training Kashmiris, Pakistanis and Afghans for guerrilla warfare in the region.

Harkat-ul-Mujahidin, which operates openly in Pakistan and is active in Kashmir, had its guerrilla training camp destroyed when America bombed its base in Khost, Afghanistan, last month.

Foreign Islamic mercenaries are well equipped and receive substantial pay for what are sometimes two-year contracts. A small group of Pakistani mercenaries was captured recently — the first foreigners to have given up without a fight to the death. Senior army officers say foreign mercenaries fight to the end, aware that they will die in custody anyway. A number of Afghan mercenaries have been killed in Kashmir; other killed fighters have come from Sudan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and beyond.

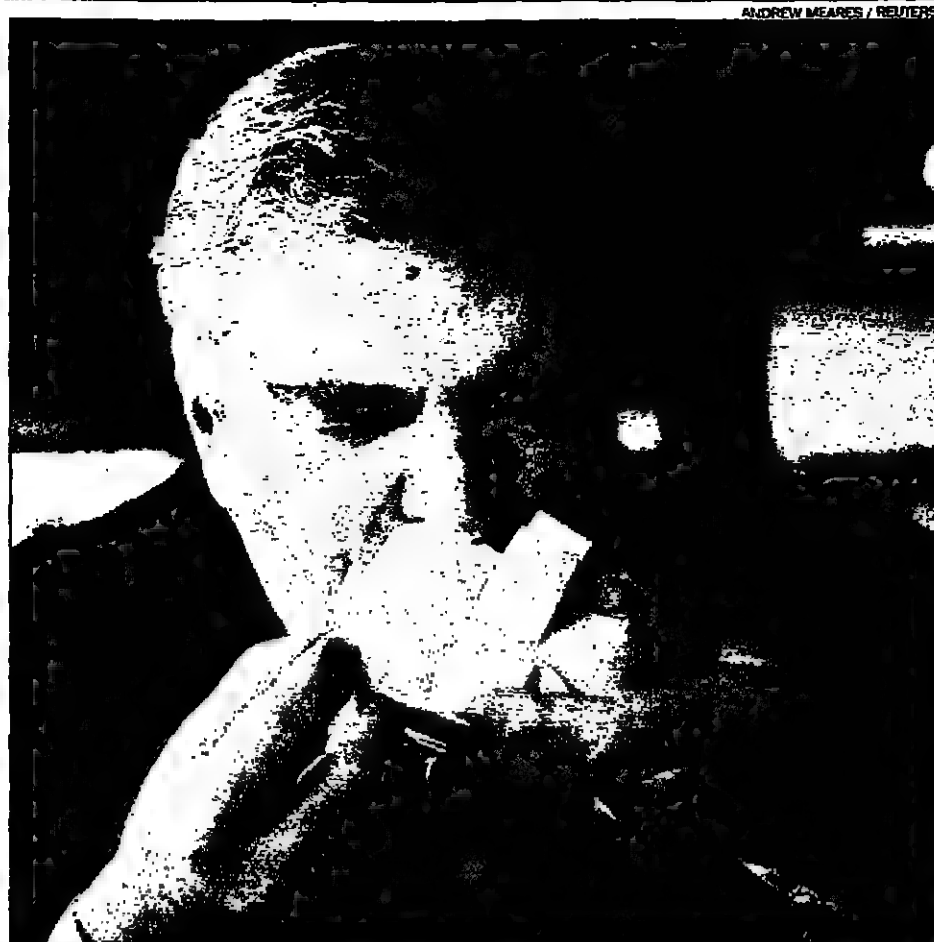
Hindus have been massacred in recent months in Kashmir, in an attempt to inflame religious conflict, almost certainly by foreign mercenaries. Militancy has moved from its focus in the Kashmir Valley to areas with a small army pres-

ence, particularly in the largely Hindu region of Jammu.

Islamabad: The Taleban has deployed 25,000 troops along the border with Iran, a spokesman said in the Pakistani capital yesterday.

The news came as Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, warned Taleban and Pakistan that their actions in Afghanistan could provoke a conflict. Tehran has 70,000 troops along the frontier. He said: "I have... so far prevented the lighting of a fire which would be hard to extinguish."

The Taleban, which on Sunday seized Bamyan, a centre of the Iran-backed Shia opposition, killed Iranian envoys after taking Mazar-i-Sharif. Iran has urged the United Nations to prevent a tragedy in Bamyan. (Reuters)



Kim Beazley, the Labor leader, eating a mango on the campaign trail yesterday

Labor entices voters with republic pledge

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

IN AN attempt to ignite its election campaign, the Australian Labor Party has offered voters a fast track to a republic. Kim Beazley, its leader, said Australians would be able to watch one of their own citizens open the Olympic Games in the year 2000 if they voted Labor into power.

Mr Beazley, speaking in a televised debate with John Howard, the Prime Minister, did not elaborate on how it would be possible to make the necessary constitutional changes. After the constitutional convention's vote for a republic earlier this year most Australians seem content to let things ride until next year's referendum on the form of a republic.

Mr Beazley took many by surprise, including apparently Mr Howard who did not respond to the Labor carrot. Labor certainly needs

carrots to entice the voters — opinion polls seem to indicate no great impact by a leader who is trying to lift his party's fortunes by personality alone. His warmth and bluntness contrast with Mr Howard who always manages to look like a bemused chief accountant who finds himself running the company. Both spend much time talking about tax and claim they will have nothing to do with the One Nation party of Pauline Hanson.

The centrepiece of Mr Howard's campaign is a VAT-type tax to pay for a range of reforms of funding at the state and federal level. He says he will lighten the tax burden on business and make Australia competitive. Mr Beazley says the tax is a smokescreen for big tax rises and a shifting of responsibilities from federal to state governments.

Tiananmen hardliner dies at 92



Yang, ordered the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown

Beijing: China's former hard-line President, Yang Shangkun, who in 1989 gave the order to crush the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, died yesterday aged 92 (Owen Brown writes).

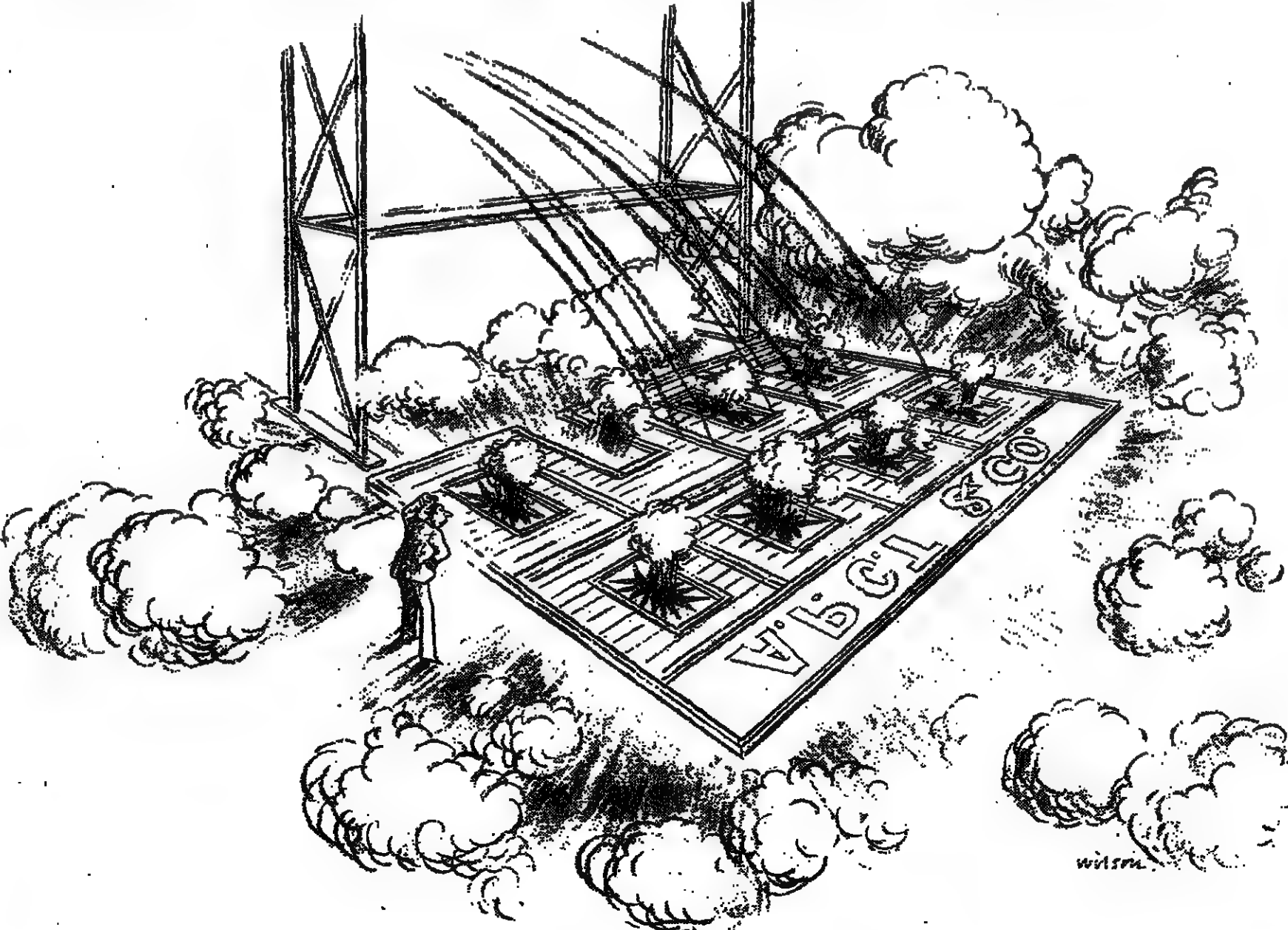
An obituary by the Chinese leadership described the former military chief and veteran of the Communist Party's Long March as a "great proletarian revolutionary, statesman, and military strategist".

As the second most powerful man in China, Mr Yang was pivotal in rallying hardlin-

ers behind then paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to order a brutal end to protests in Beijing in 1989. His death from illness was announced as the lead item in the national 7pm television news.

Obituary, page 21

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Test that predicts who will suffer dementia

Anjana Ahuja reports on a dramatic development in predicting Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's disease is a wily and pernicious stalker. As our serialisation this week of John Bayley's memoir of Iris Murdoch shows, by the time sufferers have a definite diagnosis, the disease has obliterated many faculties and snatched away their sense of self.

A cure for this distressing dementia, which affects 400,000 people in Britain and accounts for 55 per cent of all dementia cases, is not imminent, despite all the headlines about breakthroughs. The disease is thought to be caused by the formation of protein plaques on brain tissue, but science has yet to come up with anything that can reverse the process.

This is why the thrust of drug development is slowly shifting. Companies are focusing less on developing cures and more on formulating "neuro-protectives". These drugs, such as Aripiprazole and Exelon, act to preserve the levels of acetylcholine, a brain chemical involved in the communication between neurons, and in which Alzheimer's sufferers are deficient.

These medications stave off cognitive decline for a number of months. However, they can revolutionise the treatment of Alzheimer's only if doctors can spot it early enough to allow most of the brain to be preserved.

An ingenious touchscreen computer test developed by scientists in Cambridge promises to bring that possibility much closer. Researchers at CeNeS, a spin-off pharmaceutical company from Cambridge University, have devised a series of simple computer tests that can

spot the mental decline unique to Alzheimer's. They estimate it can accurately identify those at risk up to two years before they develop the symptoms needed for a certain diagnosis. In the field of dementia, where buying time means buying a better quality of life, it is a breathtaking achievement.

The company is refining the tests for widespread use, but stops short of calling the test a diagnostic. It prefers to label it a "very promising predictor". However, the company admits the test is "the first sensitive enough to distinguish the early stages of AD from normal ageing, as well as from other forms of dementia and depression."

Dr Joanna Iddon, senior neuropsychologist in the cognition division, says her colleagues are "very excited about it".

The Cantab (Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery) test for Alzheimer's disease takes barely a few minutes, and all the input information it needs is the age, sex and IQ of the patient. The scores are then checked against a database of healthy and affected people. This comparison generates a percentage probability that the patient will develop Alzheimer's. Among other effects, the disease causes impairment to visual memory and spatial working memory. So these are the kinds of tasks given in the test.

One task involves looking at a number of squares arranged in a circle, with an abstract pattern set in, each. Squares and patterns flash up in turn, for a couple of seconds. Moments later, when faced with a pattern, the subject must touch the square in which it ap-



Dr Joanna Iddon believes that Alzheimer symptoms should be caught as early as possible

peared. I found the tasks with four squares, and then six squares easy to accomplish. I became alarmed, however, when it came to memorising the patterns in eight squares. It took me four learning sessions before I got the task right. I need not have worried — the fact that I managed it at all suggested my mental inadequacies were due to normal ageing rather than disease.

Dr Iddon says: "A person in the early stages of Alzheimer's might fail at three patterns. They would definitely fail at six. The problem lies in laying down new memories, so even if they see the symbols ten times, people with Alzheimer's can't learn them. However, if shown them enough times, a healthy person would be able to do eight patterns. You wouldn't have to be young or clever."

Another task entails looking at a bunch of squares to see if any contain tokens. Each time

a patient finds a token, they are not allowed to return to the square in which it resides. The idea is to see whether people eventually hit on a strategy for solving the problem — people with Alzheimer's find it almost impossible to devise such techniques.

The Cantab test, still being worked on, has been tried out on 70 people. It is, in the jargon, "100 per cent sensitive and 88 per cent specific". This means it correctly identified all those who went on to develop dementia, but 12 per cent were false positives.

"It shows that nobody is slipping through the net," Dr Iddon says. "That's exciting but more tests are needed."

Clinical trials are being set up at hospitals in Bath and Edinburgh to validate the findings. The objective is to devise a test that gives a reliable probability that someone will develop the disease. A person whose probability exceeds 50 per cent will then be referred automatically to a specialist.

The crucial thing about the Cantab test is that it appears to be able to show whether increased forgetfulness and cognitive decline is caused by normal ageing or dementia. At the moment, doctors usually need other pointers to decide whether a patient ought to be investigated.

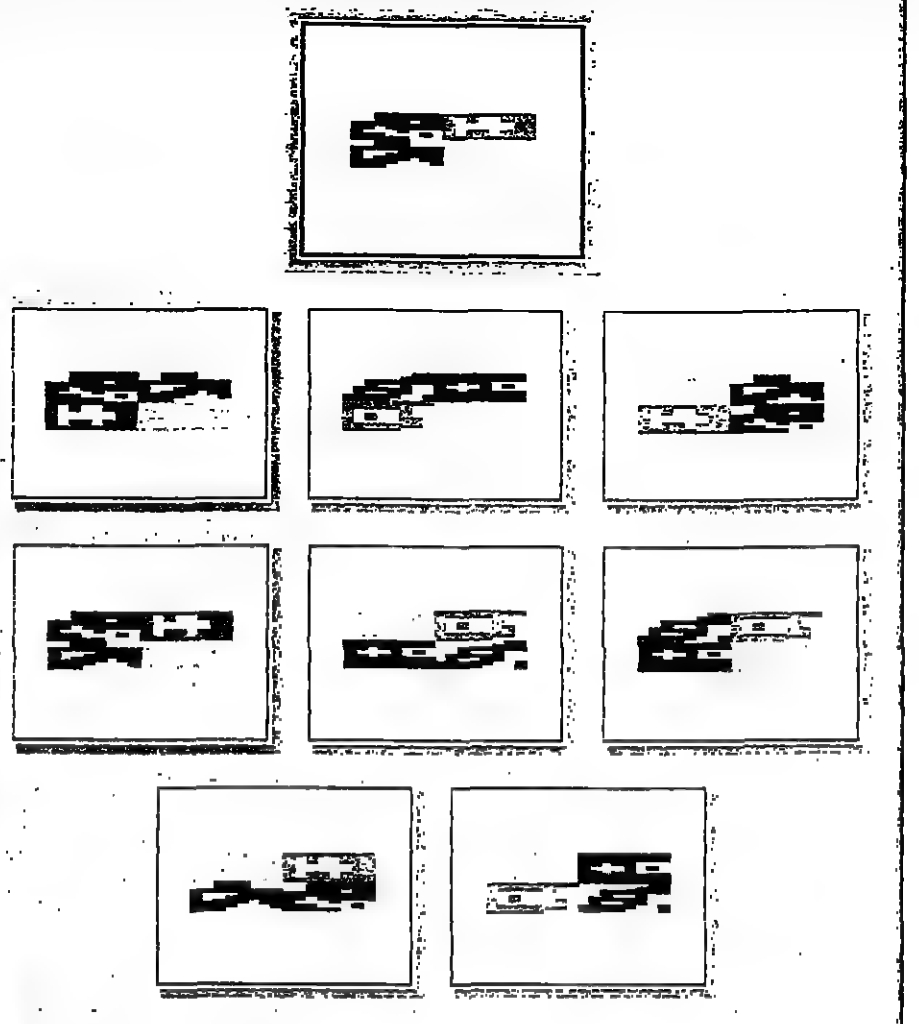
However, by the time more serious symptoms appear — such as severe memory loss, disorientation, concentration problems, language impairment and personality changes — a person's quality of life has diminished so much that protective drugs seem worthless.

The Cantab test has another important clinical application: it can distinguish between Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and brain disease. Dr Iddon says: "There is an apathy associated with Alzheimer's that can easily be confused with depression that many people experience in mid-life."

"But it is possible to tell the conditions apart by looking at, for example, the time taken to match each pattern. A person who is depressed is more likely to have a continual run of failures. They think they are so useless it isn't even worth trying."

The tests can also pick out people suffering from normal pressure hydrocephalus, a condition that causes potentially

WHICH PATTERN EXACTLY MATCHES THE ONE IN THE BOX?



DECAY OF VISUAL MEMORY IS A KEY TEST

MANY of the tasks featured in the Cantab test for Alzheimer's involve pattern matching. In the diagram above, look at the top pattern for no more than two seconds. Then glance at the others and decide which matches the centre pattern (answer at the bottom).

This particular exercise focuses on visual memory, which suffers as Alzheimer's runs its course. The patterns are deliberately designed to be extremely complex.

"It isn't very easy to give them a description, so that means you have to memorise them," says Dr Joanna Iddon, who is helping to refine the tests for widespread use. "That makes the

tasks harder to do." The use of pictures means that the Cantab test, which takes about ten minutes, is not specific to language or culture, and so could be employed worldwide.

A computer readout gives an instant analysis of performance, compared against a database of people with and without Alzheimer's. This is translated into what probability there is that the patient will develop the disease.

Those found to be at more than a 50 per cent risk would be referred for further investigation. The tests can be modified to assess patients for Parkinson's disease and Huntington's chorea. (Answer: centre row, far left)

How the disease is diagnosed

THE criteria for clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD), a condition affecting up to 20 million people worldwide, is set by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association (NINCDS-ADRDA).

A definitive diagnosis can only be made by looking at both symptoms and brain tissue. Since brain tissue can be obtained only from an autopsy, diagnoses of Alzheimer's in living patients remains merely probable. Clinical diagnosis of probable AD requires the dementia to be confirmed by neuropsychological tests,

deficits in two or more areas of cognition (such as memory, attention, processing speed and language), progressive worsening of memory and other cognitive functions, unimpaired consciousness, onset between 40 and 90-years-old; and the absence of other brain disease.

Such a diagnosis might be supported by a family history, changes in behaviour and brain scans showing areas of atrophy. However, if a person's decline is sudden rather than progressive, and they suffer such symptoms as lack of coordination or deficits in their vision, it is likely that Alzheimer's is not the culprit.

Dr Thomas Szafron is away.

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This technique can also detect other fatal diseases

fatal build-up of fluid on the brain. Dr Iddon adds: "It looks like Alzheimer's but it is treatable. It's important to diagnose it because if the fluid isn't removed, the person can easily die within two years." Amazingly, it appears that Cantab can reveal this rare disease even before it appears on brain scans.

As well as hospitals and doctors' surgeries, pharmaceutical companies are likely to be customers. Dr Iddon explains: "In drug trials at present, some people who are taking the drugs do not have Alzheimer's. They skew the results and can make drugs look more effective than they really are."

"If companies could screen volunteers and monitor who participates in these trials, we would see cleaner groups of people and we would possibly get drugs that are more likely to work."

The problem is that the tests used to gauge if patients using new drugs are improving are only useful for people in the advanced stages of the

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All applications should be sent to Advocate Nicola Davies, by 16th October, 1998.

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IRIS: A MEMOIR

and we fell into each other's arms



Happy holidays: at the Villa Serbelloni, Como, in 1965



Family snaps: (above, left) the summer of 1962 at the Old Rectory, Linton Cheney in Dorset, "a magic place, away from the world" and (above, right) Iris talks to Mark Bonham Carter at a party for best-selling authors in 1966



something dark, preferably black, suited to the person of mature years and sober disposition which I still assumed and hoped her to be. Was it not these imagined qualities in her which had attracted me so strongly when I first saw her on her bicycle?

The door opened. An apparition in what seemed a sort of flame-coloured brocade stood before me.

A steep flight of stone steps led down to the St Antony's crypt in which the dance was to be held. As we went down Iris trod on her long dress, slipped, and slid inelegantly down a few steps on her behind. She was not hurt. She got up and smiled while the others brushed her down, amid laughter and joking. The ice was already broken as far

as fellow-dancers were concerned.

My dancing was unconfident. When we moved, there seemed no correlation between the different parts of us. Iris smiled at me encouragingly, and a few seconds later relinquished me and began to execute arm-twirlings and arabesques on her own. She looked ungainly and rather affected, but touchingly naive at the same time.

The band gave a flourish, and stopped. Iris came back to me at once, looking happy and relaxed. She asked about my room in the college. I asked if she would like to go up there a minute, thinking of the bottle of champagne I had bought that morning, and put in my cupboard along with two glasses. She said she would like to

very much. I took her arm as we mounted the stone steps, in case she had another fall. My room was small and spartan: a bed, cupboard, table and wooden chair. But there was a gas fire, which I now turned on. I got the bottle and glasses out of the cupboard. As I put them down on the table we fell into each other's arms.

It seemed as natural as it had been to take her arm when coming up the stairs, or for her to take my hand for a minute when we had left her own room in St Antony's. We never returned to the dance floor but sat in my room until two in the morning. We talked without stopping. I had no idea I could talk like that, and I am sure she never knew she could, either.

I think Iris was accustomed only to talk properly, as it were, considering, pausing, modifying, weighing her words. To talk like a philosopher and a teacher. Now she babbled like a child. So did I. With arms around each other, kissing and rubbing noses (I said how much I loved her snub nose) we rambled on and on. She seemed to be giving way to some deep need of which she had been wholly unconscious: the need to throw away not only the rivalries of intellect, but the emotional fears and fascinations, the power struggles and surrenders of adult living.

I had a wish to rub my nose and lips along her bare arm. She made me take off my dinner jacket so that she could do the same to me.

"If we were married we could do this all the time," I said, rather absurdly.

"We shall be doing it nearly all the time," she answered. "Yes, but if —"

She stopped that by starting to kiss me properly. We remained locked together for a long time. The bottle of champagne remained unopened on the table.

Long, long afterwards I was having to look through her manuscripts and papers to find some stuff requested by the publisher. In the back of an exercise book, containing notes for a novel were what seemed to be a few entries, some dated, others random observations, comments on books, philosophers, people she knew, denoted only by initials. Some notes on pupils too, and on points that had struck her in their work. One entry, dated June 3, 1954, read: "St Antony's Dance. Fell down the steps, and seem to have fallen in love with J. We didn't dance much."

● Extracted from *Iris: A Memoir* by Iris Murdoch by John Bayley, published by Duckworth at £16.95. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459. Copyright John Bayley 1998

Peaceful bedroom habits

CLUELESS as I still was in the early days of our relationship, I did know by then that Iris had several lovers, often at the same time. I also intuited — how I don't know but it turned out to be correct enough — that she usually gave her favours out of admiration for the godlike rather than the conventionally-attractive

one occasion I accidentally received an unexpected hint from an acquaintance who had been for a brief period a successful admirer. I did not care for this character, a highly distinguished figure in his own sphere, with a weakness for keeping his friends a trifle over-informed about a current

love affair, and how painful or ecstatic or both it was turning out to be.

On occasion he made some remark about how important it was to get the girl proficient at what you wanted to do yourself, indicating that if she was gone on you enough she would — whatever it was.

"Nothing more discouraging than a partner who won't enter into the spirit of the thing," he observed sagely, and then gave me a sudden guilty look as if he might have given something away. It was unlikely that he knew I was aware of his walk-out with Iris, but that brief hangdog look gave me a strong suggestion that he was thinking of her and her shortcomings in bed, thoughts which he realised were now

not best communicated to her husband.

Certainly our bedroom habits (the deep peace of the double bed after the hurly-burly on the chaise longue, as Mrs Pat Campbell noted) were always peaceful and unbothered by considerations of better, or more. The lady in Iris's novel *A Severed Head* who complained that her marriage "wasn't getting anywhere" would probably have made the same observation about her sex life.

We expected neither sex nor marriage to get anywhere: we were happy for them to jog on just as they were.

I did know by then that Iris had several lovers

TOMORROW
'I shan't do it and shall never do another.'
Trouble over Iris
Murdoch's final novel
and how John Bayley realised for first time that something might be seriously wrong

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ENDGAME IN GERMANY

Bavaria floats the Chancellor off the rocks

For the embattled Helmut Kohl, the triumph of Edmund Stoiber's Christian Social Union in the Bavarian state elections is a whiff of oxygen in an airless room. Its national significance is most easily gauged by considering what the impact on Herr Kohl's fortunes would have been, had the opposition Social Democrats led by Gerhard Schröder made significant inroads in this rockribbed conservative state. Since no one would have pinned the blame on Herr Stoiber, whose personal standing among Bavarians could hardly be higher, any CSU setback would have been firmly laid at the Chancellor's door. He and his Christian Democratic Union would have looked like the deadest of horses as he flogged the party into the final lap of Germany's federal election campaign.

As it is, the Social Democrats fared considerably worse than expected, and the race is again open. Yet Herr Kohl needs no reminding of two facts. The first is that prosperous Bavaria, one of the only two of Germany's 16 states where conservatives govern outright, has always been a law unto itself: the result there does not, whatever he may say in public, prove that the entire nation is recoiling from the prospect of a Red-Green government.

The second is that Herr Stoiber increased his majority despite, rather than because of, his party's membership of the centre-right coalition in Bonn. The Bavarian state premier not only kept Herr Kohl physically off-stage — and off his party's posters — during the campaign; he powered to victory with a "Bavaria first" pitch that invited voters, whatever they thought of the feeble lot in Bonn, to pin their faith in his own undeniably successful record in attracting investment and keeping unemployment down to two thirds of the 10.6 per cent national average. Herr Stoiber's success in stealing the far right's clothes on crime and immigration will influence Herr Kohl's endgame. But no small part of Herr Stoiber's popularity stems from his open

opposition, unique among leading German politicians, to the European single currency that is the Chancellor's special pride. That is a garment which the CDU cannot borrow.

Gerhard Schröder, for his part, has lost momentum at a crucial stage, conspicuously failing to show that even on inhospitable terrain, the SPD can capitalise on the voters' impatience for change. The lesson he needs to draw is that whereas elsewhere in Germany, the disarray within Herr Kohl's CDU party has allowed Herr Schröder to rely on his personal charisma, the SPD's unreconstructed faith in the high-spending welfare state makes it vulnerable to Herr Stoiber's hardhitting campaign against the "perils of socialism". He needs to smarten up an act which has been studiously evasive on policy.

The SPD might also do well to stop targeting Herr Kohl personally, as it did in Bavaria. Unpopular though he is, the Chancellor might yet persuade Germans that his experience is needed to shield them against political and financial turbulence in Russia and elsewhere. But even some of Herr Kohl's key aides are on record that his days are numbered. With the CDU soon to enter a bruising leadership battle, it might be cleverer for the SPD to emphasise the Chancellor's political mortality, presenting a vote for the centre-right as a leap into the unknown.

The SPD ought still, in theory, to win: it needs far fewer votes than a six to eight point swing in its favour would yield. But Germany's proportional system is so resistant to change that in the history of the Federal Republic, incumbent Chancellors have not often been voted out of power: they have either been deposed in palace coups or ousted when a junior coalition partner switched sides. With less than a fortnight to go, the race has abruptly become too close to call. Just when decisive German leadership would be most noticeable beside the political uncertainties in Washington and Moscow, the chances of a clean victory for either coalition look slender this week.

ESCAPE HATCH

Concede perjury to keep honour and office

Members of Congress have returned to Washington, having tested the political temperature in their districts and states. Opinion polls indicate that Americans are concerned but confused about Bill Clinton. A majority believes that he has done something wrong — in both the moral and legal sense. The President is regarded as a perfectly competent politician but an utterly flawed human being. Most voters seem to think that some sanction is needed but that impeachment or resignation would be excessive. They hope that Congress can find a middle route and do so quickly.

Senator Orrin Hatch has offered one. The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee has suggested that if Mr Clinton abandons the fiction that his previous answers on the Lewinsky affair were legally correct, it might be possible for Congress to proceed with a motion of censure. He would have to admit perjury but would avoid impeachment hearings. This will strike most Americans as a reasonable proposition. Other congressmen are likely to embrace it.

Mr Clinton's alternative is to stick to his extraordinary definition of a "sexual relationship" and his implausible account of his adventures with Monica Lewinsky. He would also be obliged to maintain the fantastic proposition that he did not lie when he claimed that he had rarely been alone with Ms Lewinsky because the door to his office was not completely closed. This version undermines the President's contention that he has admitted his failings, repented and should now be allowed forgiveness. It risks rendering him a figure of absolute ridicule.

It will also do him harm in prospective impeachment hearings. This was put very bluntly by Senator Robert Kerrey of Nebraska, a Democrat of considerable in-

dependent standing, a war hero, and a man of consistent candour. The Senator warned Mr Clinton: "If you come and say to the American people that I'm legally correct, I didn't have sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, you're going to lose. And I hope the President understands that."

Mr Hatch and Mr Kerrey have produced rather better political advice than Mr Clinton appears to be receiving from his own circle. The President's character, credibility, and capacity to undertake his official duties to any acceptable extent will remain issues while he continues to prefer legalisms to ordinary language. The longer he avoids the manifest truth, the more he corners Congress into a choice between doing nothing or forcing him out. Mr Clinton may think that Congress will not summon the resolve to impeach him. That may be true, although November's election can change matters, but Democrats and Republicans will extract their revenge in other spheres. Mr Clinton would spend two years as a titular chief executive.

Neither the United States nor the wider world can afford that outcome. Mr Clinton must do at least the minimum necessary to avoid his complete political collapse. The only honourable alternative is his resignation. This means that he must shift ground on the question of perjury. This will expose him to the risk that Kenneth Starr could proceed, at a future date, with an uncontested prosecution for perjury in the criminal courts. Mr Clinton cannot anticipate what his ultimate sentence might be. He would, though, have displayed a willingness to face facts and assume full responsibility for his actions. Americans are entitled to ask for such qualities in their supreme political leader.

FROZEN ASSETS

A letter to the Editor is still the way to get things done

Sir Ernest Shackleton's candle lantern, the straps with which Captain Scott lugged his sledge and other memorabilia of Antarctic exploration are to be returned to the places whence they were taken. John Claydon, Wing Commander (retired) of the New Zealand Air Force, removed them from the huts as souvenirs more than 40 years ago. Yesterday, following a letter in *The Times*, he removed them from Christie's Exploration and Travel sale, where on Thursday they were estimated to fetch £13,000. Seldom has the oldest English public notice board and alarm bell worked so fast.

For more than two centuries, writing to *The Times* has been the quickest way to draw attention to a matter of urgent public interest. From the second day of publication statesmen and women, and private men and women, have been writing to the Editor to fly kites, launch campaigns, ride their hobby-horses or issue warnings. Max Beerbohm noted the efficacy of the cry "I shall write to *The Times*" as long ago as 1914. The rise of Florence Nightingale and the fall of the Aberdeen Government both started on our letters page. In his infinite wisdom John Delane, the Editor, decided to print Queen Victoria's letter appealing to be left alone with her grief under court news rather than on the letters page. Then, as now, that decision was final.

Few such letters have had quite so instant an effect as yesterday's. In the morning we published a letter from Jeff Rubin protesting that the sale was an assault on Antarctica's cultural heritage. Within hours Wing Commander Claydon had pulled the historic relics from the sale and given them to the Scott Polar Research Institute. They will be sent back to New Zealand, which controls the Ross Dependency territory, and should eventually be back in their huts.

Much has changed since they were left there. Then polar expedition and climbing Everest were the last great outdoor adventures left on Earth. Few recognised that Antarctica even had a cultural heritage. Today Everest is littered with rubbish, and 10,000 tourists visit Antarctica each year. Then explorers left gear and provisions behind them for the intrepid few who followed them to Captain Scott's "awful place", and it was common practice for infrequent visitors to take souvenirs from the huts. Today their huts are kept under lock and key. And the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 prohibits the removal from the continent of so much as a pebble, shell or feather. But some things never change. Auction houses will tend to take a commercial rather than a patriotic view about objects offered for sale. And a letter to *The Times* is still the quickest way to put right an obvious wrong.

Blair's loyalty to his friend Clinton

From Mr Harry Shaw

Sir, Donald Anderson, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, says that we should not be seen as "the last of the Mohicans, clutching the President when all his entourage were deserting him" (report, "Stay away from your old friend, Blair told", September 12; see also letters, same day).

I disagree. The apparently genuine friendship between Mr Blair and Mr Clinton leads me to believe that the honourable course for Mr Blair is to behave in precisely that way. He may well improve our standing by demonstrating loyalty to a friend who has been deserted by so many. If Mr Clinton has done nothing to damage British interests — and in the case of Northern Ireland may even have assisted us — what reason have we for abandoning him?

Contrary to the normal rules of political behaviour, Mr Blair has an opportunity to stand up for friendship, at no cost to Britain. I would advise him to go to Mr Clinton, and if it helps, take a bottle of good whisky with him.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY SHAW,
8 The Toppings,
Bredbury, Cheshire SK6 1EJ.
hsh@clara.net
September 12

From Mr Gordon C. Morse

Sir, Given the nature and severity of our President's troubles, your Prime Minister might have found it convenient to avoid immediate contact with Mr Clinton. He did not, and I admire him for it.

Whatever the President's personal shortcomings — and they are many and offensive — he has done many good things for our country and the world. Obviously the Prime Minister recognises this and well appreciates Mr Clinton's commitment to a strong and enduring relationship between our two countries.

I say, good show.
Yours,
GORDON C. MORSE,
112 Glasgow,
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188-9172.
gcmorse@earthlink.net
September 13

From Mr Bob Mulholland

Sir, President Clinton has the overwhelming support of the American people to remain in office. In fact, 66 per cent (latest poll) want Clinton to remain in office — that's more people than voted for him in 1996.

Unlike the UK system, the United States directly elects our President and we elected him for a four-year term that ends on January 20, 2001. Meanwhile, President Clinton will continue to work on the issues (economy, education, healthcare, etc) which average Americans care about and on which they know the President is on their side.

Sincerely,
BOB MULHOLLAND
(Member of Democratic
National Committee),
1051 Adler Court,
Chico, CA 95926-9637.
September 14

From Captain R. S. Wraith, RN

Sir, Whether or not the American people will see fit to condone the behaviour of their President will become apparent as the story unfolds. As a military man, I shall be more interested to know whether the US Armed Forces will find it possible to co-operate with an example being set by their Commander-in-Chief.

What message will this send to those in authority over the young and susceptible?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WRAITH,
Barn Park,
55 Whitworth Road,
Tavistock, Devon PL19 9BD.
September 13

From the Reverend David Thomas

Sir, One stands amazed at the hypocrisy of a country which exalts sexual activity as the sole purpose of mankind and then hunts down one who lives up to its expectations.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID THOMAS,
The Rectory, Hood Lane,
Armitage, Rugeley WS15 4AG.
September 11

From the Reverend Rod Garner

Sir, The good news for President Clinton, following his prayer-breakfast confession, is that God still accepts him. As the sceptic Heinrich Heine said on his death bed in 1856: "God will pardon me, it is His trade."

The bad news, however, is that the early Church eventually took a firm stand on last-minute conversions: it barred them.

Yours faithfully,
ROD GARNER,
(Theological Consultant,
Diocese of Liverpool),
Holy Trinity Vicarage,
24 Roe Lane, Southport PR9 9DX.
September 12

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Level school playing field for boys

From Dr Richard Grayson

Sir, The research by Dr Ann Phoenix of Birkbeck College, suggesting that boys are held back by peer group pressure (report, September 10), provides valuable evidence for all those interested in the problem of underachievement among boys. The next question must be: "What do we do about it?"

Dr Phoenix suggests that small-group teaching may help boys articulate feelings they will not discuss in a larger group. In a new pamphlet, *Saving our Future: Disaffection with Schools*, published by the Centre for Reform, the Liberal Democrat-leaning public policy think tank, John Howson and I make other suggestions — among them that there needs to be much greater emphasis in personal and social education (PSE) lessons on thinking about the role of boys and men in society.

To build upon existing good practice, we call for the establishment of a national curriculum for PSE, to include careers education, and for the consideration of study skills and gender roles. Meanwhile, the Government must find ways of encouraging more men into teaching so that boys have more male role models in schools, especially in primary schools.

We also believe that disaffection with school among both boys and girls is often due to much wider social problems, particularly to the fact that children do not link school with their desire for a fulfilling role in society. To counteract this, we would like to see the establishment of a National Office for Work and Schools to encourage more work-school partnerships.

As part of these partnerships, children could spend up to one day per week out of school in meaningful work experience. This would be regarded as part of their education, and could help children to feel that society does have something to offer them. The decision on whether this would be suitable for each individual child could be made at the age of 14, when each would start an "individual learning account".

Yours faithfully,
R. S. GRAYSON
(Director), Centre for Reform,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AF.
September 10

From Mr Neil Benbow

Sir, As a tutor and lecturer in further and higher education, I can grimly

Shipping decline

From Professor James McConville

Sir, There are clear reasons for despondency over the decline in the number of those employed in Britain's merchant fleet (letter, September 7). At the end of June 1997, according to this centre's latest research figures, 71 per cent of the fleet's 17,144 officers were over 40 years of age. The majority of them will be leaving the industry within the next decade or so. Such a large outflow of qualified labour would be of little moment if they were matched by similar inflows; but this is far from the case.

To ensure stability would require the recruitment of some 1,000 cadets (trainees) annually. For the past five years the average has been 211. Hence the number of ratings in employment (10,860 in 1997), combined with cadets in training (1,130), is well below the minimal critical point necessary to ensure the capacity of the UK shipping industry to fulfil its long-established commercial, economic and strategic obligations.

Yours sincerely,
J. McCONVILLE (Director),
Centre for International
Transport Management,
The Business School,
London Guildhall University,
84 Moorgate, EC2M 6SQ.

Ongoing crusade

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Now that Christians have apologised for the attack on Muslims in Palestine nine centuries ago (report, September 8), will Muslims apologise for the attack on Christians in Palestine four and a half centuries before that — and Italians and Greeks and Iraqis for attacks on Jews even earlier, and Jews for the attack on the Jebusites 2,000 years ago?

Where does it all stop, or start?
Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1 8EW.
September 8

Forward planning

From Mr Trevor Randall

Sir, I have been given, by a great-aunt, the 1902 vest-pocket edition of Rogers's *200 Calendars for 200 Years* (Rogers Publishing Company of New York). It starts with January 1, 1800 (Wednesday), and finishes, as expected, on December 31, 1999 (Friday).

As this publication is nearly out of date I hope urgent steps are being taken to publish the next 200-year calendars before the millennium.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR RANDALL,
18 Somerton Gardens,
Earley, Reading RG6 5XG.
September 13

recall the feminist rhetoric thrust upon would-be educators who learnt their philosophy in the 1970s that "women suffer at the hands of men in education". In their day research funding was spent on pursuing the questionable aims of feminists rather than the pursuit of excellence for all students, irrespective of gender.

I find it sadly ironic that, at a time when girls and women were not gaining good exam results, research was needed to find out why; yet, now that they are gaining good results, more research is needed for the same purpose. Why not spend some of the money on helping boys and men?

Yours sincerely,
NEIL BENBOW,
The Penthouse, 3d Ashburton Road,
Alverstoke, Gosport PO12 2LH.
neil.benbow@lineone.net
September 7

From the Chair of the
Coeducation Group, Headmasters
and Headmistresses Conference

Sir, Your leading article of September 7, "Look at the girls", speaks of the confident, well-qualified generation of girls now emerging from the nation's schools. This development is certainly to be applauded.

At the same time, the disparity in exam performance between girls and boys could certainly benefit from further research. It is also disappointing, within an otherwise sound analysis, to see negative references to coeducation and "the disruption of mixed classes".

It is self-evident that academically selective schools will do better in tables of examination performance. Furthermore, it is historical fact that many or most of such schools are single-sex. To report that these schools occupy the top places, and then go on to conclude that this must make them the best schools, is an argument that is both circular and slightly tedious after all these years.

There are good schools and bad schools. Single-sex and coeducational schools fall into each category. Highly selective schools will always come at or near the top of exam performance league tables. That is the long and the short of it.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON WILLCOCKS,
Chair, Coeducation Group,
Headmasters and Headmistresses
Conference,
Bedales School,
Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 2DG.
September 8

Duty-free sales

From Mrs Edwina Currie

Sir, Why should it be assumed that the end of duty-free shopping must inevitably result in an increase in fares on cross-Channel ferries (letters, September 8 and 14)?

If the operators replace the considerable floor-space currently occupied by whisky, cigarettes and fancy chocolates by goods most of us need on holiday and on our return, they could do very nicely out of it. Personally, I'd like branches of Boots, Marks and Spencer's and Tesco's; plus a bank, and a proper bookshop. The airports are now teeming with splendid shops, so why not the ferries?

And the booze and the chocs might actually be cheaper. Roll on, roll off, roll up...

Yours in hope,
EDWINA CURRIE,
The Tower House,
Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AP.
September 14

Walking wounded

From Mr Richard F. Pearce

Sir, I was intrigued to read of the failed bid by six soldiers to complete the John O'Grady's to Land's End charity walk (report and photographs, September 9). Obviously, general fitness and adequate footwear are needed, but an efficient gait style is important.

In wet and slippery conditions, stride length must be shortened to avoid over-stretching muscles, which otherwise work excessively hard. An army march on its stomach, but this group almost certainly require podiatric medical advice to keep them marching on their feet.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PEARCE
(Podiatrist),
138 New North Road,
Islington, N1 7BJ.
September 10

Light reading

From Mr W. L. Barron

Sir, I was interested to learn of Lady Thatcher's reading (*Chemistry Today*) while she had her portrait painted (report, September 4).

During the war I went to be photographed. As the photographer was lining up his camera, he gave me a book to glance through, saying that it would help me to relax. Its title: *Executions that Went Wrong*.

Incidentally, the photo was a success: the girl for whom it was intended became my wife 55 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
W. L. BARRON,
2 Dudley Lodge,
Ferndale Close,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3RR.
September 6

Standing up for Sir Henry Wood

From Mr R. H. J. Cardew

Sir, It was nice to see Andrew Davis ask the audience for three cheers for Henry Wood on Saturday, at the last night of what I continue to call the BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concerts. Although Wood's bust still sits above the orchestra each season there appears to be an attempt by the BBC to limit the use of his name on this wonderful festival in favour of the "BBC Proms".

Last year's programme guide subtly informed us that the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts were now "more affectionately known" as The Proms. The personal profile and photograph of Henry Wood, which had for many years appeared in the guide, were missing.

Every programme that I have seen this season, entitled BBC Proms 98, has carried a page proclaiming that October 16, 1926, would have been the last night had it not been for the BBC's rescue of this "popular, but financially troubled, classical music festival". However, because of its popularity I have heard there were other parties at the time keen to finance the future of these concerts.

I must admit to being slightly biased as I am Henry Wood's only grandson. However, I understand, as did my mother, Wood's eldest daughter, that the BBC undertook to retain his name in the title of this wonderful season of music. It is over 50 years since my grandfather died, but he conducted almost every concert for the first 50 seasons and created, with Henry Newman, the finest music festival in the world.

It is only fitting and morally right that his name should live on more prominently in the title of these concerts.

The BBC should continue to use the title known to music lovers throughout the world and call them, in all its publicity material, the BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concerts.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD CARDEW,
The Coach House, South Side,
Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire OX6 3RY.
September 14

Cost of opera tickets

From Mr Peter Avern

Sir, You report (September 10; see also leading article same day; letters, September 14) that "in the old house, tickets for a normal opera were between £110 and £135". These would have been the best stall seats. Prices in the amphitheatre (nearly half the seats in the house) were in the region of £35, and tickets for the slips could be had for £15 or less. As you say, prices for special performances were higher.

In this light the Royal Opera House does not seem so inaccessible. After all, people are prepared to pay at least as much to attend a pop concert or a Premier League football match.

Yours faithfully,
PETER AVERN,
Tyronne House, Water Lane,
Storrington, West Sussex RH20 3LX.
September 10

Repelling the beastsies

From Mr Joseph Fitton

Sir, It is particularly unpleasant to have Myvatn midges blocking up one's facial orifices (letters, September 5, 9 and 11), and fortunate indeed that they don't bite.

However, there was a wee local shop where one could buy an elongated Chinese lantern-like cage, covered by fine white mesh, to put over one's head.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOSEPH FITTON
(RAFVR meteorologist,
Reykjavik airfield, 1945),
Great Howarth House,
Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9HH.
September 14

From Miss Helen Rigby

Sir, I can confirm Mr Frank Day's advice (letter, September 11) to raise one's arm when trying to distract midges.

My father, with whom I have walked on several warm days over the past years through the Wyre Forest, always advocated holding a large sprig of fern above the head, rather like an umbrella. Flies and midges would always circle around that, instead of buzzing into your face.

It does, admittedly, make you look as if you are taking part in some animal procession, but it works.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN RIGBY,
213a Latchmere Road,
Battersea, SW11 2LA.
September 11

Stanching the tears

From Mrs Jill Jackson

Sir, I also discovered the efficacy of wearing swimming goggles while peeling onions (letter, September 11) some thirty years ago. But one word of warning: one must remember to remove the goggles when answering the door, particularly here in Surbiton.

Yours etc,
JILL JACKSON,
11 Pine Walk,
Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8NJ.
September 11

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE

September 14: The Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia was invited to lunch with The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Civil Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Councillor Mrs Margaret Farquhar (the Lord Provost, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen) was present at Aberdeen Airport this morning upon the arrival of The Crown Prince and welcomed His Royal Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 14: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Foundation for Architecture and the Urban Environment, this morning visited Shoreditch, East London, and received a briefing on the design proposals for the Foundation's new premises.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited East Sussex and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson). The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, visited St Mark's School, Whitehawk, Brighton, and received a briefing on projects started in the school as a result of business in the Community's work with local businesses to improve the teaching of literacy and numeracy.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Brighton Foyer project and met residents and members of the local business community involved in supporting the Foyer's initiatives for homeless young people.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this evening attended a dinner at Horsted Place Hotel.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

September 14: The Prince Edward, President, the Commonwealth Games Federation, this morning watched the netball and lawn bowls at Bukit Karam, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, before attending a variety of Commonwealth Games sporting events this afternoon.

His Royal Highness attended the Royal Gala Evening at the Concert Hall, Petronas Twin Towers. The Prince Edward later left Kuala Lumpur for London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 14: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Major General Martin White upon relinquishing his appointment as Director General Logistic Support (Army) and Major General Adrian Lyons upon assuming the appointment.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 14: The Duke of Kent visited Kent and was received by Mr John Jennings (Deputy Lieutenant of the County).

His Royal Highness this morning opened the new drug treatment wing at HM Prison Swaleside, East-church, Isle of Sheppey, and subsequently visited HM Prison Elmley.

The Duke of Kent this afternoon visited the Intensive Supervision and Support Programme, Canterbury Prison Service, Barton Mill Road, Canterbury.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre at Addon, Wincanton, Wiltshire. The Duke of Kent later visited Corston, Alcohol and Drug Services, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Birthdays today

Prince Henry of Wales is 14 today. Other birthdays include: the Rev Professor R. R. Ackroyd, theologian, 81; Mr Richard Arnell, composer and conductor, 81; Mr Charles Bone, mural and watercolour painter, 72; the Marquess of Bristol, 44; General Evis Burrows, former international leader, 69; Sir David, 69; Mr T. J. Duggin, diplomat, 51; Lord Eden of Winton, 73; Professor Brian Fender, chief executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England, 64; Dr Richard Gordon, author, 77; Lord Harris of Peckham, 55; Lord Nicholas Mackay, former president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 62; Miss Jessie Norman, soprano, 53; Viscount Norwich, 69; Mr Glen Rendrew, former chief executive, Reuters, 70; Sir Clive Rose, former diplomat, 67; Lord Justice Schiemann, 61; Lady Soames, 70; Mr Oliver Stone, film director, 52; Sir Peter Studd, former Lord Mayor of London, 82; Mr Graham Taylor, football manager, 54; Sir Richard Way, former Principal, King's College London, 84; Sir John Williams, former diplomat, 76.

Latest wills

Lord Howell, Labour peer, of Moseley, Birmingham, as Denis Howell Minister of State for the Environment, 1974-79, left estate valued at £176,483 net. Fred Jeffery, of Morecambe, Lancashire, £696,803 net.

Memorial service

The Marchioness of Downshire, a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Marchioness of Downshire was held yesterday at St Mary's, Thornton Wadass, Yorkshire. The Rev David Ryan officiated, assisted by the Rev Derek Dalton, Mr Richard Taylor, son, read the lesson and the Earl of Hillsborough, nephew, read *Turn again to Life* by Mary Lee Hall. Sir Robin Chester-Clark gave an address. The boys of Ripon Cathedral Choir, directed by Mr Kerry Beaumont, sang during the service. Among others present were: The Marchioness of Downshire (husband), Mr and Mrs David Taylor (son and daughter-in-law), Lord and Lady Anthony Hill (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law) and members of the family and friends.

Professor Herbert Nicholas, a Memorial Service for Professor Herbert George Nicholas, MA, FBA, Fellow of New College, 1956-1978, Honorary Fellow 1978-80, will be held on Saturday, October 24, 1998, in New College Chapel at 2.30pm.

Essex Lieutenant
Mr Robert Felix Erith has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.

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SHEET MUSIC celebrating the sentiments of the anti-slavery movement of the last century were among a collection that was sold yesterday (Hannah Betts writes). Pieces such as "Scenes from Uncle Tom's Cabin", above, helped to push up the price to £5,000 at Phillips in Bath. They were part of one of the largest collections of illustrated sheet music to come to auction. Music from Walt Disney films, songs by hand leaders of the 1930s and 1940s, and more recent pop music were featured. But the jewels

of the Nancy Mortimer collection were 800 pieces of Victorian sheet music with sumptuous lithographic covers by artists of the period such as John Brandard and Alfred Concanen. Gill Atkins, Phillips' manuscript specialist, said: "Together, the artwork and music give a genuine sense of the time in which they were produced." Music-hall artists such as The Great Vance and George Leybourne, alias "Champagne Charlie", gave headbatters from several covers. "Wreck of the Titanic", a musical sketch for the piano from 1912, which was sold for

£100, offered a dramatic account of the doomed liner, with florid subtitles including "Afloat on the Ocean Blue" and "Lowering the Life-boats". Nancy Mortimer, the collection's owner, a retired nursery nurse, achieved some celebrity presenting lectures on Victorian music hall while dressed in contemporary costume. She said yesterday: "It's time to make the house look more spacious. But I'll never be able to resist the temptation of an antiques fair. I'll be keeping my eyes open."

Plantation songs recall anti-slavery movement

Pipers of the world unite

BY ANGUS NICHOL

THE 114th Argyllshire Gathering heard pipers from ten countries, so widely has the interest in the music spread. A century ago there were usually six competitors, but at Oban on August 26 and 27 there were 13.

There were 30 competitors for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal, the winner of which is marked out as one of the leading pipers in the world. This year Niall MacGill, from Inverness, won with *The Old Man of the Shells* (Boadrick Niall).

Second was Pipe Major Stuart Samson, who played *The Earl of Seaforth's Salute*. Pipe Major Iain MacKay came third with *The MacKays' Banner*, and Iain Speirs fourth with *The Lament for Colin Roy Macleod*.

The Senior Pibroch competition is open only to those who have already won the gold medal at Oban or Inverness. The eight set times were long and difficult; many have not been heard in competition for decades. Dr Angus MacDonald, who played

The Red Spotted Bull, which is notoriously difficult, was the winner, giving an outstandingly musical performance.

William MacCallum, who came second, played *The Lament for the Harp Tair*. Rodrick MacLeod, in third place, played another formidable tune, *The MacCallum's*. The MacCallum played *The Lament for the Harp Tair*, a tune with a lyrical and wistful melody.

The silver medal competition was won by Iain MacCallum with *All the Men Paid Rent* but Roy, of which the origin is lost.

In the last stage of the tune the first alarm went off, but such was MacCallum's concentration that he continued as though unconscious of the interruption. Michael Rogers, playing *The Blue Ribbon*, came second. Another who played *All the Men Paid Rent* but Roy was Andrew MacCallum, who won third prize. In fourth place, Seamus Coyne played *The Munros' Salute*. Liam Brown was fifth with *The Salute to Donald*.

The MacCallum Memorial Pibroch competition for young pipers was won by Margaret MacCallum, from Co Cork, with *All the Men Paid Rent* but Roy and *The Massacre of Glencoe*. Brian May, from Brooklyn, came second with *The Bicker and The MacCallum's*. John Mulhearn, in third place, played *The Lament for Donald*. A fourth prize went to Edward MacCallum, who played *The Lament for Donald*.

The Junior March, Strathgry and Reel event for the Duke of Argyll's Medal was won by Angus Morrison for the second time.

School news

Lambrook Hallbury School
The Governors of Lambrook Hallbury School, Wiltshire, Row, announce the appointment of Mr Robert Deighton, currently Headmaster of Bromley Abbey School, as Headmaster of Lambrook Hallbury on the retirement of Mr John Hare in September 1999.

St David's College, Llandudno
The Autumn term started last week with Gareth Roberts as Head Boy, Tom Wollaston (Cader), Ivan Stewart (Snowdon), Ben Liffa (Tryfan) as House Captains and Matthew Carrington as Senior Day Boy. Our first intake of girls, Ella Doel, Helena Cheaman, Gwylis Mitchell, Anna Winchurich and Deborah Gelder, have been warmly welcomed into the school. Old "Cadeiades" weekend is on November 7 and 8 and term ends after the Carol Service on December 11.

Butchers' Company

The following have been appointed officers of the Butchers' Company: Michael J. Richardson, Douglas J. Nokes, Michael J. Richardson, William J. Parker, Colin S. Quillmore.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will present the Professional Cricketers' Association Players of the Year Awards at the Lord's Indoor Cricket School, St John's Wood, London, at 7.15. The Duchess of Gloucester will open St Helena town centre refurbished market at 1.30; will visit Robins Lane Community School, St Helena at 2.15 and will open St Mary's Care Centre, Haverwood, Merseyside, at 3.20.

Appointments

Miss Caroline Elmes, 49, head of the South Asia Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has been appointed Ambassador to Angola, from November, in succession to Mr Roger Hart, who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Peter Spokes, 55, Deputy Consul General and Director of Trade Promotion at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has been appointed Ambassador to Costa Rica, from next January, in succession to Mr Alan Green, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon C.L. Broughton and Miss N.J. Goggs. The engagement is announced between Lieutenant the Hon Charles Broughton, Grenadier Guards, son of Lord and Lady Fairhaven, of Lode, Cambridgeshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Quentin Goggs, of Easterton, Wiltshire.

Mr R. Cole and Miss M. Pearce. The engagement of Robert Cole and Madeline Pearce, of Portsmouth, took place on February 14, 1998.

Mr N.R. Fincham and Miss J.C. Davies. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Fincham, of Trentham, Staffordshire, and Jessica, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Davies, of Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Mr J.D.A. Helliwell and Miss P.V. Hart. The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.G.N. Helliwell, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Polly, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs N.J.R. Hart, of Watford, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.J.M. Jolly and Miss M.E. Laybourn. The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr and Mrs M.J. Jolly, of Burton-by-Lincoln, Lincolnshire, and Mette, daughter of Mr Helge Laybourn and Mrs Karen Marie Laybourn, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Mr J.R.V. Michie and Miss I.J. Timmis. The engagement is announced between Rupert, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Duncan Michie, of Broadwoodley, Devon, and Isabel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Timmis, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.R. Wickham and Miss L.C.D. Skene. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wickham, of Llandudno, West Sussex, and Lady Skene, daughter of Mr Terry Rolfe, of Llandudno, and Mrs Carolyn Skene, of Llandudno, West Sussex.

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BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

BABY - In Amsterdam on September 14th 1998 to Sarah (née Williams) and Harry (née Williams) a daughter, Miss Alice.

BROAD - On Wednesday September 16th 1998 to Claire (née Watson) and Nicholas, a son, Charles Hugh Nicholas.

BROOKE - On September 13th to Katie and Edward, a son, Thomas Michael.

CARRINGTON - On September 2nd 1998 to Ann (née Reed) and Philip, two sons and a daughter, Thomas Alexander Reed, Benjamin David Reed and Eliza Grace Reed, two brothers and a sister for Lydia.

CLIMMOW-HILL - On Friday September 12th at the Portland Hospital to Joanna and Charlie, a son.

DINGLE - On September 10th to Louise (née Tim) and David, a son, Timothy Julian Dingle, a brother for Dominic.

EALES - On September 1st at the Portland Hospital to Wendy (née McClellan) and John, twin, Gregory and Alexander.

ETEROVIC - On September 11th at the Portland Hospital to Eugenia and Adrian, a son, Thomas Francis, a brother for James and William.

FLENNY - On September 10th 1998, to Jade (née Carter) and Philip, a son, Robert.

FREYTAG - On September 11th at the Portland Hospital to Kristian and Tom, a daughter, Nicola Clara, a sister for Dylan and Nathan.

HALE - On August 17th 1998 in New York to Louise and Martin, a daughter, Emma Louise, a sister for Nicholas and Christopher.

HARPER - On September 10th at the Portland Hospital to Fiona (née MacNeal) and David, a daughter, Isla, a sister for Oliver.

JENN - On Thursday September 10th to Sara (née Lovick) and Nicolas, a son, Alexander Nicolas, a brother for Oliver.

JOSEPH - On September 11th at the Portland Hospital to Andrea and Adam, a daughter, Mikayla Alexa.

JOHNSON-FERGUSON

On September 12th 1998 to Rachel (née Johnson) and James, a son, Edward James, a brother for Phoebe.

LAKER - On September 7th at the Portland Hospital to Leah (née Johnson) and Robert, a daughter, Leah Elizabeth, a sister for Harry.

LEONARD - On September 10th to Jo (née Johnson) and Robert, a daughter, Leah Elizabeth, a sister for Harry.

MANN - On September 7th at the Portland Hospital to Leah (née Johnson) and Robert, a daughter, Leah Elizabeth, a sister for Harry.

MATTHEWS - On September 10th at the Portland Hospital to Leah (née Johnson) and Robert, a daughter, Leah Elizabeth, a sister for Harry.

MERSON - On Thursday September 10th to Samantha (née Pampell) and Philip, a daughter, Hebe Alexandra Inogen, a sister for Henry.

ONELL - On 14 September 1998 to Michael (née Onell) and Michael, a son, Hector Harry.

PARKER - On September 10th 1998 to Caroline (née Rees) and Hugo, a son, Oliver Henry Leonard, a brother for Anna.

SETH - On September 3rd at the Portland Hospital to Susan and Shalindra, a son, Amar Chandan.

SIDWELL - On Sunday September 13th 1998, to Claire (née Egerton) and Paul, a son, Benjamin Paul.

VOIC - On September 10th at the Portland Hospital to Daisy and Robert, a daughter, Georgia Julia, a sister for Wolfgang.

DEATHS

James Evans - On 10th September 1998, aged 19, suddenly in his sleep, Marcus Francis Roach, beloved son, unforgettable brother, cherished grandson, nephew and cousin, and previous friend to many. His funeral service will be held on Friday 18th September at 2.30pm at St. Nicholas Church, Church Street, London W4 followed by interment. Flowers - enquiries to Andrew Holmes and son, 32 Whitton Road, Hounslow, TW3 2DQ. 0181 572 3277

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GEORGE WALLACE

George Wallace, the former four-term Governor of Alabama, died in Montgomery, Alabama, on September 13 aged 79. He was born in Clato, Alabama, on August 25, 1919.

Crippled by an assassination attempt while making his third bid for the White House in 1972, George Wallace had first come to prominence with his 1962 defiant cry of "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation for ever". That slogan, delivered in his first gubernatorial inaugural address, went round the world, as did the photograph of him a year later standing in "the schoolhouse door" of the University of Alabama vainly trying to prevent the admission of two black students to the campus. "In all precision," Theodore White was to write in his *Making of the President* account of the 1968 presidential campaign, "George Wallace was an unabashed racist" — and that remained the public perception of him through his abortive 1972 bid for the presidency as well.

But, in reality, it was probably more accurate to regard Wallace as one of the most successful, and certainly one of the most enduring, of a long line of anti-intellectual, populist demagogues reaching back to Huey Long. In 1968, in the second of his three attempts to gain control of the White House, Wallace achieved more votes than any third party candidate since Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. Almost equally remarkably, when as a reformed "racist" he retired from an unprecedented fourth term as Governor of Alabama in 1967, he had this wheelchair notwithstanding controlled the politics of his state for 20 out of the previous 24 years.

Wallace's life and career demonstrated the metamorphosis of Deep South politics. From the blatant segregationism of the 1960s, he slowly modified his approach until, even by 1972, his appeals to prejudice were more discreetly coded under such terms as "law and order".

It was in that campaign, while he was shaking hands in the midst of a crowd in a shopping centre on the last day of campaigning for Maryland's presidential primary on May 15, 1972, that he was shot at point-blank range by Arthur Bremer, a 21-year-old white gunman using a .38 calibre snub-nosed revolver. (He is still serving the 63-year sentence awarded him in June 1972.) Wallace sustained three bullet wounds in the stomach and arm, with one lodging in his spine, paralysing him permanently from the waist down. Yet this attempted assassination curbed his political career only temporarily.

The strength of will he showed in coming to terms with his paralysis and the way in which he continued afterwards with his political career impressed even his most implacable opponents. He went on to complete two more consecutive four-

year terms as Governor of Alabama, and by 1983, when he returned to the governor's mansion, he had courted black support effectively enough to capture a third of Alabama's black votes.

George Corley Wallace's family was respected and well-known politically. His grandfather had served as a county judge, and Wallace had his first taste of political campaigning at the age of 13. At 16 he became a page boy in the state senate of Alabama. Two years later, however, his father, an unsuccessful farmer, died and Wallace had to put himself through Alabama University by working as a waiter and a taxi driver. He was a popular student and a noted athlete, twice winning state amateur boxing titles in a Golden Gloves championship before his 18th birthday. He graduated in 1942 with a law degree and was called to the Alabama Bar that year. During the war he served in the United States Army Air Force in the Pacific theatre as a flight engineer, finishing with the rank of sergeant.

From his university days, he had been compulsively ambitious politically. While serving in the Pacific, he had assiduously cultivated voters in his native constituency, sending out hundreds of Christmas cards each year. In 1946, he was appointed assistant attorney-general and the following year he was elected to the Alabama state legislature. He became the protégé of James ("Kissing Jim") Folsom who, in 1954, captured the governorship of Alabama from the wealthy landowners who had previously controlled the Democratic Party in the state.

In 1953, Wallace became a judge in the third judicial district, where he earned the nickname, from his natural pugnacity, of the "fighting little judge". Five years later, he ran for election to the governorship of Alabama for the first time. Remarkably, given his later policies and reputation, he assumed the guise of a racial moderate. This, however, merely reflected the racial attitudes of the times rather than any inherent liberalism on Wallace's part. His opponent was an extreme supporter of segregation. Thus Wallace violently attacked the Ku Klux Klan and won the endorsement, however reluctantly, of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. He was soundly beaten. He declared later that he had been "out-niggered," adding: "I'm not going to be out-niggered again."

Nor was he. In 1962 he overwhelmed his former patron, Folsom, in the gubernatorial election on an out-and-out segregationist ticket. The Kennedys' attempts to accelerate desegregation of southern life by legal process enabled Wallace to pose as protector of state's rights against federal "tyranny" at the hands of what he always rejected in calling "pointy-headed bureaucrats".

In 1964 he made his first venture into na-



George Wallace on typically combative form in 1968

tional politics, managing to get his name onto the ballot list in three primary contests for the presidency and attracting more than a third of the votes in each case. He again drew international attention when he tried to change Alabama's constitution to enable him to be elected for a second successive term as governor and to provide himself with a secure base to attack the presidency in 1968. Thwarted in this, he secured instead the election of his wife as governor despite her ill-health and record of operations for cancer from which she was to die during the 1968 presidential campaign. His position as her official "number one adviser" in the Alabama military department enabled him to continue his control of Alabama politics, which traditionally had involved a good deal of intimidation and political corruption.

For much of his career, Wallace's demagoguery, like that of many of his rivals and predecessors from the Deep South, involved ruthless exploitation of the resentment and opposition of the white rural population against black advancement and civil rights. As a result, his name became anathema to northern liberal intellectuals as represented in such organisations as Americans for Democratic Action.

Yet, to the fury of such individuals, Wallace, like Robert Kennedy, could transcend the normal patterns of electoral behaviour. In his 1968 campaign for the presidency, for example, he was able to appeal both to the white-collar respectable commuters of the Eastern seaboard and to the "hard hat" blue-collar workers of the cities of the industrial North. He articulated

equally the fears and suspicions of the "redneck" rural poor and of the white ethnic urban inhabitants of the inner cities. In 1968, Wallace recognised that the liberal centre and radical wings of the Democratic Party were united in determination to break the white segregationist hold over southern politics, even to the extent of refusing to accept, automatically, the credentials of the dominant party delegations (for instance, from Mississippi) and seating instead mixed delegations. He, therefore, formed a third party, the American Independence Party, as a vehicle for his second bid for the presidency.

As a man, he had few friends within politics and none outside. He had no personal interests and no hobbies. Politics was his life, especially campaign politics. He was the most approachable of men, both to the press and to the public. His personal characteristics, however, tended to raise hackles among the fastidious. He was a great picker of his teeth and a *Times* correspondent once noted that he was given to scratching himself in public and burping unashamedly.

After rallies, he would lapse into brooding loneliness. His first wife, Lurleen, whom he married in 1943 when she was working in a dime-store, was regarded as his complete slave. His second, Cornelia, whom he married in 1970, was of a different background, the well-educated niece of his former patron, Governor George Folsom. She did a certain amount to smooth his rougher edges, but he remained very sensitive to any suggestion that she was masterminding his cam-

paigns or even contributing to their effectiveness.

Wallace had a deep-rooted desire for political power, a combativeness disproportionate even by the standards of American politics — and an indomitable courage. He was, for example, terrified of flying: yet he flew regularly and had served in the war as a flight engineer. He feared assassination and addressed crowds from behind a bullet-proof podium. Yet he left his shelter after each speech and plunged into the crowd — and thus laid himself open to the attempted assassination.

It was the intensity of his ambitions that led him to spend the decade after becoming a paraplegic not in obscure retirement but in maintaining his place in Alabama politics. The result was that ten years later he was able to capture the Democratic nomination in the primaries for the governorship of his native state by a run-off vote and to go on to win the subsequent election.

But he himself always regarded 1968 and 1972 as the years of his prime achievement. In 1968, despite multifarious legal obstacles, Wallace got his party onto the ballot in all 50 states, carried five of them and won nearly 10 million votes, or about 13.5 per cent of the popular vote — a postwar record that was to stand until Ross Perot won 19 per cent of the national vote (though without winning a single state) in 1992. But with his first wife's death in May 1968, Wallace lost his power base in Alabama to the lieutenant-governor who tried, with momentary success, to shake Wallace's position in the state. His failure to do so on any long-lasting basis was demonstrated in 1970, when Wallace was again elected to the governorship.

At the time of his attempted assassination in 1972, Wallace had made himself a major force to be reckoned with. His victories in Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina and Maryland showed that he still could command the loyalties of the southern and border states. The liberal measures to give all children an equal educational opportunity by mixing the social constitution of the schools, even at the cost of long "bussing" trips for pupils, had awakened the fears of white voters even in such unlikely places as Boston, Massachusetts.

The Democratic convention took place while he was in hospital recovering from the assassination attempt, and, although he controlled 323 delegates, he had no lieutenants to divine, in his absence, which way they should vote. In the event, the convention was taken over by the Left of the party, led by Senator George McGovern, of South Dakota. There was nothing in McGovern's "rainbow coalition" appeal for Wallace's supporters.

Wallace was the fourth American political figure to be the subject of an assassina-

tion attempt in nine years and the only one to survive. In the immediate wake of the attack, he won big victories in the Democratic primaries in Maryland and in Michigan. His voting strength tended to come from the male under-educated — though in Michigan half his support came from traditional Republican voters crossing party lines. In that sense, his removal from the contest was a benefit to Richard Nixon who — in his steamroller victory over George McGovern in the November presidential election — mopped up almost all the primary voters who had earlier gone for Wallace.

He made a further bid for the presidency after Nixon's disgrace over Watergate. In 1976 he put a toe into the primaries but withdrew it when he noticed that the crowds that turned out for him were a shadow of what they had been. He put this down to the presence of his wheelchair — and angrily argued with friends who reminded him that Franklin Roosevelt had got to the White House four times with the same immobility. "Yeah, they may have elected Roosevelt but the voters didn't have to watch him on television every night getting hauled onto a plane like he was half-dead."

In June Wallace announced his withdrawal, giving his backing to another Southerner, Jimmy Carter of Georgia, who went on to beat Gerald Ford in the 1976 November election.

The secret of Wallace's success — even after he had thrown away his more racist lines — always lay in the way he treated the federal government as though it were a sectional interest, totally isolated from other regions or classes. He never tired of the theme of the "little fellow" battling to survive against the depredations of Washington. And he knew the power of code-words — the Eastern press, liberals, communists, federal judges, welfare programmes, miscegenation and all the rest. He himself liked to claim that he had sown the aspiration for local white middle-class empowerment long before Ronald Reagan made it the key to his new popular conservatism.

But by 1982, when he had lowered his sights to returning to the governor's mansion in Montgomery, Wallace had largely banished even his coded undertones. He had, no doubt, taken on board the fact that black voters were by then a factor to be reckoned with.

Wallace married Lurleen Burns on May 23, 1943. They had three daughters and a son. Three years after her death, he married, in 1971, Mrs Cornelia Snively, nee Austin, niece of his former patron, Governor Folsom. They were divorced in 1978; he married his third wife, Lisa Taylor, a country singer. They were divorced in 1987. He is survived by the four children of his first marriage.

YANG SHANGKUN

Yang Shangkun, Chinese Communist leader, died yesterday aged 91. He was born in 1907.

YANG SHANGKUN was one of the last of China's Communist revolutionaries. A veteran of the Long March, he became a powerful figure in the Chi-

nese communist regime, and was at one time considered — not least by himself — as a potential successor to his long-standing ally Deng Xiaoping, the country's paramount leader. By the time Deng died last year, however, Yang had long since been sidelined, though he remained influential be-

hind the scenes, and made an official visit to Hong Kong as recently as January this year. Like Deng, he was in favour of modernising China's economy and institutions, but firmly opposed to political liberalisation. He will be remembered above all as the man who ordered the Army to attack peace-

ful pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

At the peak of his career Yang held two official posts. The first, that of President, which he occupied from 1988, was on the face of it the more exalted, but was a largely ceremonial position. Yang's real

power came from his long-standing role as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC). With an intellectual Chairman of the CMC above him, Yang became the man in charge of the day-to-day running of the Army. He took advantage of his influence to nudge his supporters into positions of power within the military — his younger half-brother, Yang Baibing, for instance, was head of the Army's General Political Department, responsible for maintaining ideological purity in the ranks, and became secretary-general of the CMC.

Yang was widely thought to be building up a power base in order to take supreme power when Deng died. Deng chose to curb those ambitions, however, and instead groomed Jiang Zemin as his successor. Yang was forced to retire from his official positions in 1992.

By then he had earned the dubious distinction of having been the man who implemented Deng's order to crush the student-led demonstrations of June 1989. Yang had supported Deng's reforming initiatives throughout the 1980s but, like his veteran revolutionary comrades, he was unable to countenance any threat to the dictatorship of the Communist Party. In May 1989 he warned the soon-to-be-disgraced party leader Zhao Ziyang that "if the nature of the student movement changed, we would be toppled." He then told troops that they were to obey orders no matter what. The efforts of Yang's younger brother, as the military's chief political com-

missar, had already ensured that troops were unlikely to question the party line, and two weeks later they went in shooting: a massacre ensued.

For seven years before that, Yang had worked with Deng on the modernisation and streamlining of the Army, cutting it by a million men, pressing it to become economically efficient by producing goods for a civilian market, and lowering the age of officers. "Yang left his imprint by carrying out the major decisions of Chairman Deng Xiaoping," said China's official news agency when he became President.

Short and stocky, with silver hair and a nice line in Western suits when not in uniform, Yang could appear a charming man, yet he was widely disliked among the Chinese even before his part in the Beijing massacre. It is believed that there was substantial opposition to his influence with the Army too.

One typical (and possibly apocryphal) story about Yang which circulated widely by word of mouth was that after paying an official visit to a factory in the south-east, he rang the managers and demanded that they send him an antique ink stone which was part of the factory's collection. They were unhappy about parting with such a valuable artefact, and so sent him a similar stone worth slightly less. He sent back a message that he was not satisfied with the stone they had sent him; they were to send the other one too. Above all, he said, he had to give one to his good friend Deng Xiaoping.



After falling from favour during the Cultural Revolution, Yang returned rapidly to power alongside Deng. He was elected to the party's central committee, and then became Secretary-General of the National People's Congress and, a year later, permanent vice-chairman of the all-powerful Central Military Commission. In 1982 he was elected to the Politburo.

He travelled widely, visiting the United States, Canada, France, the Middle East and Latin America. The Chinese media stressed that he was a vigorous and energetic leader, saying that he was a keen swimmer and that "although advanced in years, Yang never sits long in his office". Yang was born in Sichuan Province, whence Deng Xiaoping also came. He was not of obvious revolutionary stock, coming from a wealthy landlord family. At the age of 18 he joined the Communist Youth League and a year later the Communist Party, working in

the underground student movement at Shanghai University. From 1927 until 1931, he studied in Moscow and returned to take charge of communist propaganda in the trade unions and later to edit the *Red China* newspaper. In the mid-1930s he embarked on the gruelling Long March. Few women took part in that march, but one of them, Li Bozhao, would later become a playwright and his wife.

After the Communist victory, he rose through the political propaganda ranks of the military. But he fell foul of the Cultural Revolution. Red Guards accused him of being a bourgeois revisionist, and lampooned him in wall posters listening in to private conversations. He was arrested, condemned to a public rally or "struggle session", and thrown into prison from 1966 to 1978, one of the longest stretches of imprisonment suffered by any of the leadership. He was luckier than many, however, in that nobody in his family was killed. His wife, Li Bozhao, was arrested with him and made to clean latrines. She remained in poor health after their release and died in 1985. A few years after her death, when Yang Shangkun had become President, his name was linked with a 30-year-old Vice-Mayor of Peking, Wu Yi, but their rumoured romance came to nothing. Yang's son, Yang Shaomin, became a well-known photographer. He denied that his success had anything to do with nepotism, but his most successful pictures were portraits of Deng Xiaoping.

A DYNAMITE PLOT

The arrest at Boulogne of P.J. Tynan, the notorious Fenian conspirator, turns out to have been only one of a series of measures by which the English police, with efficient support from the police of France and Belgium, have captured the active agents in what is believed to be an extensive dynamite conspiracy. For some time past officials at Scotland-yard have been aware, through their agents in the United States, that a plot was being concocted in the States by Fenians, in co-operation with Russian nihilists, to perpetrate dynamite outrages in Great Britain, one part of the design being an attempt on the life of the Tsar during his visit to this country.

A short time ago it became known that several of the suspected plotters had left America for Europe. They were effectively "shadowed" by detective emissaries and their every movement watched. The party proceeded first to Paris, and after staying there for some time togeth-

ON THIS DAY

September 15, 1896

A widespread terrorist web, originating in the United States, threatened European capitals, in particular those that were to be visited by the Tsar.

two men had disappeared, but they had been tracked to Rotterdam, where they were arrested in an hotel on Saturday night. In their room were found a number of infernal machines, together with some incriminating correspondence. Their names are Wallace and Haines. A few hours later Tynan was arrested at Boulogne.

The man Bell was taken into custody at Glasgow on Saturday on instructions from Scotland-yard. When arrested he said that he was not a British subject, but an American tourist, and he refused to give any other information about himself. In his luggage were found documents showing that he had been in regular communication with Tynan. These he alleged he had "found in a lavatory".

Tynan was yesterday brought before the Deputy Public Prosecutor at Boulogne and remanded after formal evidence had been given of his arrest and identity, which he fully admitted. He is said to have told his captors that he knew capital punishment awaited him when he was handed over to the British Government.

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Latest word in mobile phone use

By Rodney Hobson

DISORGANISED nobodies who shout their private business around second-class suburban railway carriages today have a new outlet for their showing-off.

They can ring Cellnet, the mobile phone company, to dictate their e-mails and faxes. Harassed executives can drive through busy city streets confident that their messages will be typed up and waiting for them.

The inevitable spread of the garbled society has been made possible by the development of, and improvements to, computers that can recognise speech. State-of-the-art equipment is being supplied by Speech Machines, a specialist in voice-recognition equipment.

The new Cellnet service is called Dictation Line. Successful trials uncovered a solicitor who found that he could dictate off 30 letters or meeting reports a day, an estate agent who could keep a record of all his appointments and a mother of two who dictated her shopping list.

When a dictation is completed the message is automatically transcribed by the computer, checked and delivered to a fax or e-mail address. Calls will cost 59p a minute and will be charged by the second.

Brian Greasley, Cellnet's head of new product development, says: "Dictation Line is not only a world first, but a product that today's mobile professional wants."

Pioneers harness local talent

A technology transfer scheme could be a model for other areas, says Sally Watts

Well over 400 small manufacturers in South Yorkshire have used academic research centres to find solutions to production problems through a technology transfer scheme that began in Sheffield in 1994.

Originally ten local organisations joined forces to launch Sheffield Regional Technopole so that they could use their region's training, teaching, research and materials expertise to stimulate small and medium-sized enterprises and, through them, the local economy.

Technopole started with European and matched partnership funding of £610,000. This has increased to £6 million. Ideas for technology transfer were developed and seminars were held for small firms.

In 1996, the scheme, which included Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, was extended to the East Midlands, to draw in Sheffield's industrial environs of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, and Worksop, Nottinghamshire. Today 26 organisations are affiliated, and many small businesses have been put on



Hugh Facey, whose company teamed up with two universities, says Technopole is a "fantastic scheme"

the international map. A voucher system provides funding towards the cost of each project.

"Technopole is a fantastic scheme," says Hugh Facey. His firm, Grippe, made wire joiners primarily for agriculture, but saw a market for stronger joiners, or griples, for wire rope: these had to

hold up to 12 times the weight that the originals could.

The project, given a voucher worth £7,500, was a joint venture between the company and the universities of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam, contributing engineering design and materials expertise. Up to three million of the newer grip-

ples have been sold internationally by the 46-employee firm.

A technology group matches successful applicants with supply partners. Grants are given to firms with a viable product that will attract business to the region. When Technopole's second phase ended this summer, grants exceeded £1.8

million for projects with a total value of more than £4 million.

Another £7,500 grant went to Torres Engineering, towards a revolutionary pump for road tankers devised by Dr Steve Bradbury, of Sheffield University, and Ken Torres, head of the 25-employee firm. Prototypes were tested on site (firms contribute in kind as well as cash). So far he has sold 15 pumps, from £2,500 to £10,500. Mr Torres calls Technopole "a catalyst" for the region, where joblessness is high.

Technopole is about regional regeneration and nailing our colours to a manufacturing revival," says Dr Jess Cawley, from Sheffield Hallam. He believes that a similar scheme could benefit places such as Glasgow and Birmingham: Hull is interested in a food Technopole.

Keith Ridgway, of Sheffield University, has helped nearly 60 firms. At Sheffield Hallam, a tactile sound system for deaf people has been developed by Professor Jim Roddis. Paul Chamberlain, a lecturer, and Jens Brian Bunting, of Hallamshire Brewery Services, "spent" a £1,000 voucher at the same university on his idea for a simple cooler fitting for beer engines to limit froth. Now 1,000 have been sold.

Raymond Douglas, Technopole's former chairman, said: "We want to take the region into the forefront of technology."

Technopole, 0114-221 1700; Grippe Ltd, 0114-275 2255; Torres Engineering, 0114-243 3353; Jens Ltd, 0114-285 3366; Hallamshire Brewery Services, 0114-243 1721.

BRIEFINGS

A guide to small business expansion and funding has been produced by Nottingham Business School's Centre for Growing Businesses after its research indicated that many small businesses do not know how to obtain capital, do not trust their financial advisers, and want impartial, expert advice on fundraising, business planning and marketing. Details are available on 0115-448 6128.

A competition to find the best tip for small or growing businesses is being held by Innuvi, the business software supplier. Businesses with up to 20 employees are asked to submit up to 50 words giving their recipe for success. The winner gets a day's consulting with KPMG or £1,000 worth of office supplies. Entries should be sent to Recipe for Success, Freeport 2018, PO Box 139, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9NZ.

The problems of keeping businesses afloat will be discussed at a breakfast meeting called by the European Federation of Black Women Business Owners at Midland Bank's Thames Exchange branch in the City of London on September 22. The meeting is part of the federation's programme of business breakfasts sponsored by Midland. The following meeting, on November 3, will discuss preparations for the euro. Inquiries: 0171-478 9488.

Free copies of a booklet, *Starting in Business*, are available from Pearson Maddin, solicitors based at New Malden, Surrey. Call 0181-442 9191.

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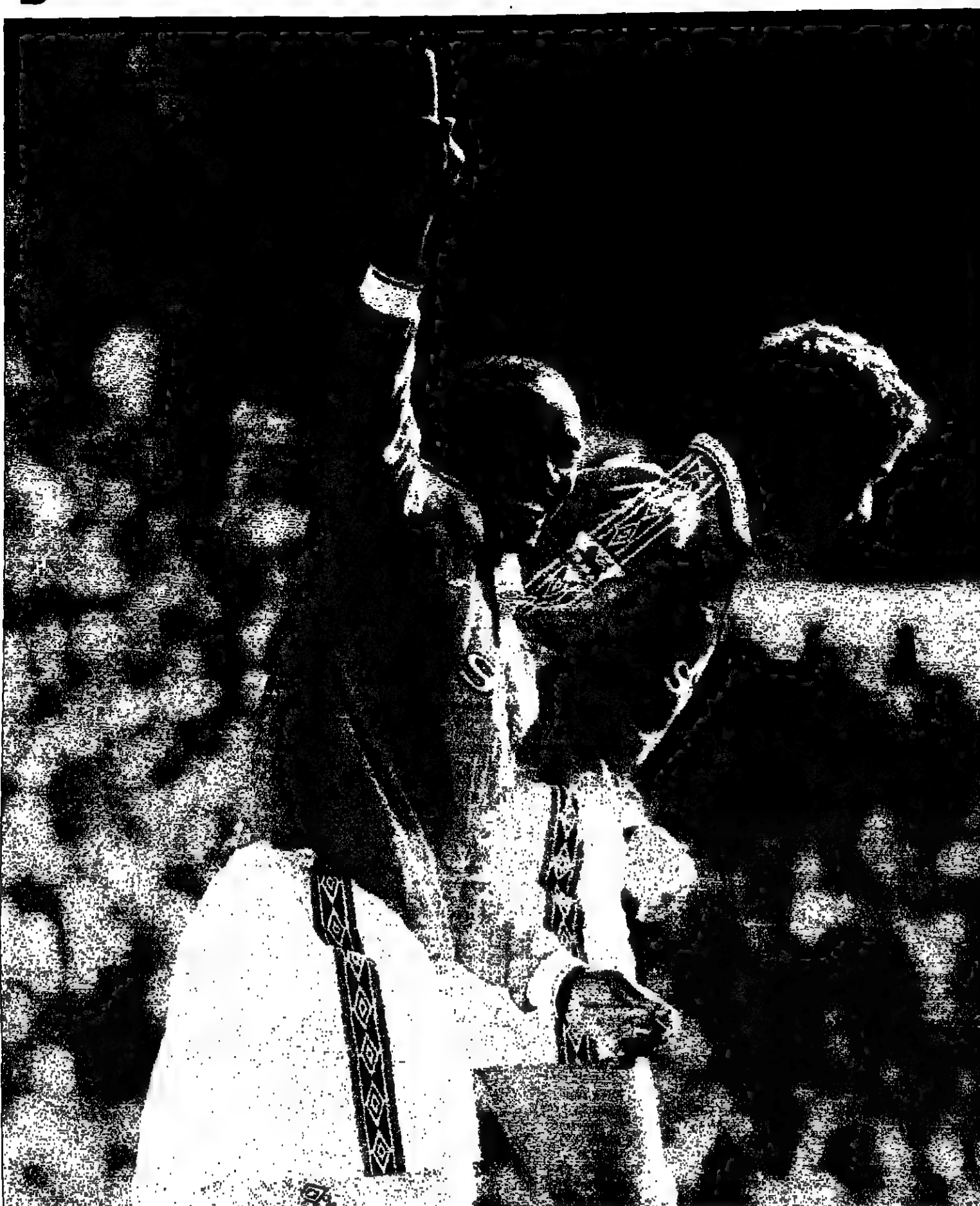
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P1722, P1723, P1724, P1725, P1

First week gone but you can still sign up



Point-scoring began a week ago but there is a long way to go and you can still enter now a team for the big £50,000 prize, or the weekly (£500) and monthly (£1,000) ones

A week into the Fantasy League season and your players, we assume, are busily clocking up their points... unless you have not yet signed up for the game, that is. If that is the case (where have you been?)... you are at a week's disadvantage but there is still time to go in for the big £50,000 prize... and of course challenge for the weekly and monthly awards. So if you haven't picked your team, have a look at the list (right) that gives all the players and their current scores.

The total prize money is worth £100,000. To win the top prize of £50,000 plus a trip to the European Cup final, simply pick 11 players from the list - ONE from each Premiership club.

THE GAME
You have a total budget of £50 million to spend - and remember you can only choose ONE player per club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation, ie:

■ one goalkeeper
■ two full backs
■ two centre backs
■ four midfielders
■ two forwards

You can also have a team chosen at random for you by Fantasy League. Simply tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form.

THE SCORING
The system is easy:
A goal scored: 3 points
An assist (last pass to a scorer): 2 points
Goalkeeper or defender's appearance (for 45 minutes or more):



1 point
Goalkeeper or defender clean sheet (including appearance point): 3 points
Goal conceded (applicable only to goalkeepers or defenders on the field): minus 1 point

ENTERING
You can enter by post or telephone. Read the instructions below carefully then either call 0640 67 88 99

(+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) or else post the coupon below with your entry fee. You can enter as many teams as you wish, but each team must have a different name.

colleagues want to get together and form a league, this is great fun for an office, school, pub or sports club. A minimum of five teams can form a league, and the chairman must send in the entry forms together. All teams entered into a Super League will automatically be entered into the main Fantasy League. You will be posted a detailed monthly report showing how you are all doing, against each other.

THE START
Remember: although the game began a week ago, you can still enter Fantasy League at any time - but obviously the sooner the better as your chances in the main £50,000 game.

TRANSFERS
You are only allowed to use 12 transfers in the season. To make your transfers, call the 24-hour transfer hotline below and use your identification number (PIN).
Transfer Line:
0640 62 51 03
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293).

0640 calls cost 60p/min. Ex-UK calls charged at national rates.

BLOOMBERG CITY LEAGUE
The Times has teamed up with Bloomberg to create an additional league within game. To enter the Times/Bloomberg game, simply tick the Bloomberg box on the application form and you will be entered into The Times Bloomberg City League. You will be able to compete against other City managers and keep up to date via track of your performance on

your Bloomberg terminal.
The Times Bloomberg City League will be exclusively featured on TFF-go+ and updated on a weekly basis. See your Bloomberg terminal for further details.

EASY CHECKLIST
Follow this simple step-by-step guide:
1. Select your 11 players from the list (right): one goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 centre backs, 4 midfielders, 2 forwards
2. Check you have no more than ONE player from any single club
3. Make sure the total value of your players does not exceed £50 million
4. Think of a name for your team
5. Enter telephone your entry by dialling
0640 67 88 99
(Super League entries are by post only)
Or fill in the entry form on the opposite page (a slower method that will mean you miss early games)
6. You may enter as many teams as you wish.

Terms and conditions can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Fantasy League, Competitions Dept, Level 4, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DB.

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE
To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team's performance use our unique faxback service. The service will be updated by noon every Tuesday.
o Make sure you have your 10-digit PIN to hand when you call.
o Pick up the handset of your fax machine (if you do not have a handset then press the on-hook or telephone button instead) and dial 0991 123 720 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4280).
o Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked.
o If you have any problems using this service call 0171-412 3795.

PRIZES
£20,000 to the manager of the Fantasy League team with the most points at the end of the season. Plus a trip for two to the European Cup final
£10,000 to the runner-up
£5,000 for third place
£2,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, will be awarded to the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular month
£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, await the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular week.
£1,000 youth prize: there is also a separate manager of the season Youth League prize of £1,000, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt
£28,000 additional cash prizes will be announced later in the season

GOALKEEPERS
102 David Seaman
103 Alex Manninger
104 Mark Hudson
105 Michael Gash
106 John Fien
107 Tim Flowers
108 Sean Ho
109 Mark Smeaton
110 David Whitford
111 Steve Ogrizovic
112 Steve Ogrizovic
113 Russell Hout
114 Paul Gerrard
115 Thomas Hlyns
116 Nigel Martin
117 Nick Barmby
118 Kasey Keller
119 Nigel Appleton
120 Brad Friedel
121 David James
122 Peter Schmeichel
123 Raymond Van Der Grint
124 Mark Schwarzer
125 Ian Roberts
126 Steve Clark
127 David Forster
128 David Forster
129 David Forster
130 David Forster
131 David Forster
132 David Forster
133 David Forster
134 David Forster
135 David Forster
136 David Forster

FULL BACKS
203 David Seaman
204 Alex Manninger
205 Mark Hudson
206 Michael Gash
207 John Fien
208 Tim Flowers
209 Sean Ho
210 Mark Smeaton
211 David Whitford
212 Steve Ogrizovic
213 Steve Ogrizovic
214 Russell Hout
215 Paul Gerrard
216 Thomas Hlyns
217 Nigel Martin
218 Nick Barmby
219 Kasey Keller
220 Nigel Appleton
221 Brad Friedel
222 David James
223 Peter Schmeichel
224 Raymond Van Der Grint
225 Mark Schwarzer
226 Ian Roberts
227 Steve Clark
228 David Forster
229 David Forster
230 David Forster
231 David Forster
232 David Forster
233 David Forster
234 David Forster
235 David Forster
236 David Forster

CENTRE BACKS
305 Steve Bould
306 Tony Adams
307 Martin Keown
308 Steve Bruce
309 Matthew Upson
310 Gary Breen
311 Gareth Southgate
312 Ricardo Rocha
313 Gareth Barry
314 Colin Hendry
315 Sebastian Peris
316 Steve Bruce
317 Stephen Hendry
318 Richard Fulton
319 Scott Young
320 Phil Chapple
321 Steve Bruce
322 Steve Bruce
323 Steve Bruce
324 Steve Bruce
325 Steve Bruce
326 Steve Bruce
327 Steve Bruce
328 Steve Bruce
329 Steve Bruce
330 Steve Bruce

FORWARDS
601 Alan Shearer
602 Nicolas Anelka
603 Dennis Bergkamp
604 Christopher Dorrance
605 Dwight Yorke
606 Kevin Phillips
607 Robbie Keane
608 Robbie Keane
609 Robbie Keane
610 Robbie Keane
611 Robbie Keane
612 Robbie Keane
613 Robbie Keane
614 Robbie Keane
615 Robbie Keane
616 Robbie Keane
617 Robbie Keane
618 Robbie Keane
619 Robbie Keane
620 Robbie Keane

GOALKEEPERS
331 David Seaman
332 Alex Manninger
333 Mark Hudson
334 Michael Gash
335 John Fien
336 Tim Flowers
337 Sean Ho
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You gotta have Harte - or Hartson

The first weekly prize of £500 has been won and the in-form players are emerging. Nick Szczepanik reports

The first two rounds of matches in the FA Carling Premiership that count in the Times Fantasy League have now been played, and today we publish the first list of the top hundred teams. Congratulations to Alan Featherstone who is the first weekly winner. From next week, a list of the top ten for the week will also be published.

Any entrants who decided on a forward partnership of Dwight Yorke and John Hartson must have been congratulating themselves by five o'clock on Saturday, when they learnt that their signings had such bagged a goal to add to their midweek efforts. Yorke, who is still listed as an Aston Villa player in the player lists (players remain registered with their original clubs for the duration of this season's Fantasy League), has managed three goals in the last two games - from fairly close range, admittedly, but they all count. Equally, Hartson was aided by a significant deflection off Jamie Carragher, of Liverpool, but, like those who chose him in their Fantasy League teams, will not be complaining.

Upton Park, in fact, was a happy hunting ground for forwards in last Wednesday's remarkable West Ham v Wimbledon game, with Ian Wright and Marcus Gayle each scoring twice and laying on another for a colleague to bag eight Fantasy League points (three for each goal and two for an assist) and Jason Euell taking five points for a goal and an assist.

Four goalkeepers, Mark Bosnich (Villa), Thomas Myhre (Everton), Nigel Martyn (Leeds) and Mark Schwarzer (Middlesbrough) kept the opposition out in both games and earned a maximum six points. Everton's encouraging defensive displays enabled Michael Ball, their left-back, to claim eight points, but the highest-scoring full-back was Ian Harte of Leeds United.

Harte gained six points from his team's two clean sheets but also scored one of his team's three midweek goals against Southampton, whose defenders, you will not be surprised to learn, are among the lowest-scoring players in the lists. Scott Marshall, in particular, must be wishing he had remained in Arsenal's reserve side after two own goals in five days.



FIRST WEEKLY WINNER

The Fantasy League entrant who combined his selections most successfully was Alan Featherstone of Sturfordshire, who becomes the first winner of the weekly prize of £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment and, of course, the first leader of the main league table.

Yorke, Hartson and Harte were the main points-scorers in his selection, named Larlandipsyteam, with some help from Ronny Johnsen, the Manchester United central defender who scored his side's second goal against Coventry, and none at all from Noel Whelan or David Howells. However, so close was the race for first place that even two-point contributions from Garry Fillicoff and Lars Bohinen were crucial.

In the end, Mr Featherstone took the prize by a single point from Steven Moor of Rickmansworth, who scored 48. Martyn, Andy Hinchcliffe and Gary Pallister contributed six points each to his total, but Emilie Hasky let the side down with only three points.

Thomas Esperjesi, of Cheltenham, was a further point behind. Even without Dwight Yorke or John Hartson, he managed a highly creditable 47 points.

With £500 to be won every week this season, as well as the monthly prizes of £1,000, it is never too late to enter a team with a realistic chance of success.

WEEKLY WINNER

These are the players from the first week's top team, Larlandipsyteam

David Bosnich	3
Laurent Charvet	3
Ian Harte	3
Frank Leboeuf	3
Ronny Johnsen	6
Garry Fillicoff	2
Noel Whelan	0
Lars Bohinen	2
David Howells	0
Dwight Yorke	11
John Hartson	10



As I was saying . . .

Did you win the weekly prize, then? Not exactly. I think one or two of my players are still approaching full fitness after the World Cup, as it happens. Sorry! It's the middle of September. Tell Gianluca Vialli about it. He brought my man Brian Laudrup off against Arsenal and kept him on the bench until the nineteenth minute against Forest, so he obviously thinks he needs a bit of match practice. How's he going to get that if he's on the bench, then? Good question. I was also a little disappointed in Overmars. No goals in the two games last week, and no assists. You talked about Hinchcliffe last week. I remember. He scored another of his free-kicks against Blackburn, didn't he? I did speak about him, but, if you remember, I actually signed Paul Telfer as my dead-ball specialist. Did any of your players come up trumps? It's a sad tale of near misses, unfortunately. At first, when I looked at Saturday's results, I thought Dennis Irwin had earned me some points, but it turned out that he wasn't in the Manchester United defence that kept a clean sheet against Coventry. And Matt Elliott was on the point of a clean sheet bonus for Leicester until Stephen Hughes got a late equaliser for Arsenal. It sounds to be as if you need to make one of your famous forays into the transfer market. Well, hang on. You can only use 12 transfers this season, so you have to be as disciplined as a real manager. You can't just go splashing

imaginary money around. It will require careful thought and a bit of old-fashioned team-building. Hmm. There are one or two of those so-called *real managers* who couldn't possibly last a full season on only a dozen transfers. Barry Fry's head would explode. And you can't sign foreign players: what would Vialli and Gullit do? Funny you should ask. I've got a plan to see if *Gazzetta dello Sport* has a fantasy game and find out if you can hack into that through the Internet or something, and suddenly sneak Oliver Bierhoff or Ronaldo in. I like your thinking. But surely there's another way, isn't there? How do you mean? You can enter more than one team, can't you? Pick another side with a different team name, then another a bit later with all the players who are on a roll. Yes, that's certainly worth thinking about. One problem is that I always have trouble thinking up team names. What is your team called, anyway? I'm not telling you. You'll laugh. I thought that was the idea with fantasy team names. They're all puns on real team names, like *Bayer's Munchkins*, or *Unreal Madrid* or *Leicester Pigott*, aren't they, or things like *Hel's Nigels*. Mine's a bit different. What is it, then? "Your company name here." I don't understand. I'm trying to attract sponsorship.

FANTASY QUIZ



Each week on these pages there will be a demanding test of your footballing knowledge (or a mild five-second diversion, according to your ability), set by our resident expert.

Today: What do these four Fantasy League players have in common?

Answer next week

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Harte of gold: A bargain Fantasy League buy at only £3.4 million, Ian Harte, the Leeds United and Republic of Ireland full-back, has outscored the rest of the FA Carling Premiership's defenders, thanks to two shutouts and a goal, even if it was only against Southampton

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Larlandipsyteam	Alan Featherstone	49
2	Probas Jackdash	Steven Moor	48
3	Champion Rivers	Thomas Esperjesi	47
4	Jonny's XI	Jonathan Smith	46
4	The Wright Stuff	Jonathan Richards	46
4	Deathly	Tony Mumaghan	46
4	Dermot Sheehan	Dermot Sheehan	46
4	F C Springheads	Scott Hayman	46
9	Ben's Dynamo	Daniel O'Rourke	45
9	Hanshu Hotspur	Jane Free	45
9	Hullabalooza	Sam Clarkson	45
9	Reservoir Dogs	Paul Brakwell	45
9	Costin Me Alot	Nick Costin	45
9	Chopper Champs	Marc Ashdown	45
9	Throw in Misses	Miles Lawson	45
16	Nathan's Boys	Harry McDermott	44
16	Dynamos Devils	Peter Monson	44
16	Robbie Roberts	Robert Southern	44
16	Bubbles XI	Andrew Duckworth	44
16	Bradyboudiers	Rosemary Gunn	44
16	Pulver's Eleven	Keith Pulver	44
16	Little's Gems	Leslie Samball	44
16	Oliver's Army	David Ready	44
16	Wayne's Wanderers	Wayne Faulconbridge	44
16	Potter's Allstars	Matt Maniatis	44
16	The Mican Team	Adam Harding	44
16	Real Mobile	Gary Russell	44
16	Botany Bay XI	Stephen Brooks	44
16	J's Trainers XI	Jason John Robins	44
30	Knallton's Team 1	Darren Kneil	43
30	Aycliffe Tigers 4	Charles Smith	43
30	Rammler	Shmit Rehman	43
30	Wolston Saturday	John Cade	43
30	Scheldatstainey	Pete Lansdown	43
30	Football Fancies	Tracy Young	43
30	Master Bates' XI	Paul Mason	43
30	Middle's Holders	Philip Nordmann	43
30	Hemby Reserves	Duncan Clark	43
30	Unpronounceables	Sieve Evans	43
40	Real Kickers	Richard Michael Fearn	42
40	Punjabi Sheriffs	Kashif Alam	42
40	Reflex Action	David Wright	42
40	Melanctonians	James Carter	42
40	Mark Maniacs	Mark Eskine	42
40	Teamovebackhome	Maunce Schneider	42
40	Eso Warriors	Roger Cook	42
40	Bob's Hoppers	Robert Shelton	42
40	Marina Wambles	John Goodall	42
40	Karl's Kickers	Ken Hughes	42
40	Thoma's Greats	Greeme Thomason	42
40	Waka United	Richard Wake	42
40	Waka Football	Bright Wake	42
40	Painborough Reds	Simon Grange	42
40	The Crazy Gang	Vincent West	42
40	Mid-Table Unit	Simon Tubb	42
40	Winewry	A J Dimasical	42
40	Study Super XI	Stewart McLelland	41
40	Toms Allstars	Tom Myatt	41
40	Do Darkdestroyer	Daniel Coates	41
40	Brighston Belles	Jane Brighton	41
40	J Doyle	Nicholas Dixon	41
40	East Hamsters	Edward Barker	41
40	Confused Peggy	Christopher Hussey	41
40	Sparkak Lobster	Chris Adams	41
40	3 Over The Light	Steve Dick	41
40	Merry Tuglows	Sean Edgar	41
40	Edgar's Enigma	Richard Storey	41
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40	Schmitts	John Berry	41
40	Bedberry United	Ian Jackson	41
40	New Confrontations	Duncan Heat	41
40	The Bass Heat	Lucy Crosthwaite	41
40	I Hate Football	Neil Garrett	41
40	Neil's Mixed Men	Jimmy Holiday	41
40	Johnny Cakes	John Taylor	41
40	Paul Heatthers	Liam Hancock	41
40	Des Squad	Mark O'Hell	41
40	Boon's Ballgame	No name	41
40	No name	Michael Mullen-Westlake	41
40	Blue Boys 1	Christopher Beggs	40
40	Katy's Kickers	Steve Tilly	40
40	Gilbert's Allstars	Tom Harnes	40
40	Yomsworbrighton	Ian Sharpe	40
40	Bag III UMI	Philip Pease	40
40	Silly Tubbies	Lisa Norman	40
40	Lucky Leven	Joanne Kewenagh	40
40	Slater F C	Niall Martin	40
40	Ember Athletic	Alex Edmondson	40
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40	Jo's Dummies		40

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Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

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LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

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MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM

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TO FORM A SUPER LEAGUE You need at least five teams to form a Super League. The chairman must complete the form below and submit it with a valid fantasy league entry form for each team in the Super League, enclosing an entry fee of £5 per team (£10 sterling outside the UK or RoI) or credit-card details. Super League entries cannot be made by phone. The chairman will receive a monthly report on the league's progress.



THE TIMES SUPER LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

ONLY complete this form if you are entering five or more teams to form a Super League. This form is to be completed by the Super League chairman only

YOUR SUPER LEAGUE TITLE (up to 16 characters)

Total number of managers in your Super League (minimum five, there is no maximum)

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Send this form with a Fantasy League entry form for each manager in your Super League, including the chairman, with payment in ONE envelope to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

Walking Australia in 69 days

By MARIA ALVAREZ

A DIABETIC is claiming a new record after walking across Australia. David Parker, a bookkeeper of Newsham, raised more than £100,000 for the British Diabetic Association with his 2,817-mile trek from Perth to Sydney in 69 days, 11 hours and 52 minutes.

The undertaking, which may have broken a record of 71 days in The Guinness Book of Records, was his way of showing others with diabetes that the disease does not have to be crippling.

The walk took 10 months of training. During it Mr Parker had to test his blood seven times a day. He ate pasta, rice, vegetables and fruit and lost 2½ lb of body weight.

Mr Parker will be back in England in six weeks looking for another record. "It's a drive you can't stop. You want to do it again and do it better."

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Plus PEOPLE & PROPERTY: twelve-page supplement Plus INTERFACE Plus CREME

No compromise in the TUC lions' den Blair endorses George warning to unions

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR lined up with the Governor of the Bank of England last night to deliver a double warning to the unions that economic policy would stay unchanged and interest rates could not yet be cut.

Both Eddie George, the first Governor to speak in the lion's den of the TUC conference, and the Prime Minister, who arrived afterwards for a dinner with union leaders, ruled out short-term measures. Mr Blair, rejecting union claims about the threat of recession, told them to "confront difficulties rather than exaggerate them".

Their uncompromising message came as union leaders seized on yesterday's fall in inflation to 2.5 per cent to demand immediate cuts in interest rates and relief for manufacturing industry. They accused the Bank of risking the jobs of a quarter of a million workers as it "sleepwalks into recession". In the City, the pound tumbled against the mark as traders bet on an early interest cut.

Mr George would only offer the hope that rates might have peaked. To the dismay of his listeners, he indicated that an early rate cut was not on the Bank's agenda because a rapid fall in inflation "is still not the most likely outcome" in the eyes of the Monetary Policy Committee.

However, he added: "There is no doubt in my mind that recent international developments have at least reduced the likelihood that we will need to tighten policy further."

Mr Blair said that the Government could not afford to take any short-term measures which would jeopardise long-term stability. "However hard it is in the short term we must never forget the long term," he said.

But he too hinted that interest

rates may have peaked at 7.5 per cent. Mr Blair said: "What is important is that interest rate decisions are made in the long-term interests of the economy. People should never forget that in the early 1990s interest rates were at 15 per cent for a year and manufacturing output fell by 7 per cent."

He argued that the Government could help to soften the impact of world economic problems in Britain by setting up an emergency fund for re-training workers, and task forces to help in firms facing big losses or closures.

The Prime Minister will continue his message today in a keynote speech on the economy after a visit to Fujitsu in his Sedgefield constituency. But he will say that the job losses at the computer chip plant, which announced two weeks ago that it was going to shut, have to be put into perspective. More than 10,000 jobs had been created or saved in the North East because of inward investment over the last year and 400,000 jobs had been created nationally.

Union leaders said Mr Blair and Mr George had offered cold comfort to the struggling manufacturing sector. Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "If the Monetary Policy Committee came into the real world with us they would know that interest rates have to come down."

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF, called for a representative of the manufacturing sector to be added to the MPC because "Mr George does not seem to realise once you lose manufacturing jobs from the economy they do not return."

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, took a more conciliatory

tone, insisting that unions "can't ignore the risk of inflation" and that a too sharp fall in the pound "could trigger inflation". He added that unions were right to criticise the "one club approach" to monetary policy but had to face up to the fact alternatives would involve some "hard choices".

The Governor issued a plea to the unions to "turn down the noise" on interest rates and to consider the current position of the economy. He insisted that the Bank of England did "care about activity and jobs in all sectors" and that the Bank "will be just as rigorous in cutting rates" if inflation threatened to fall below target.

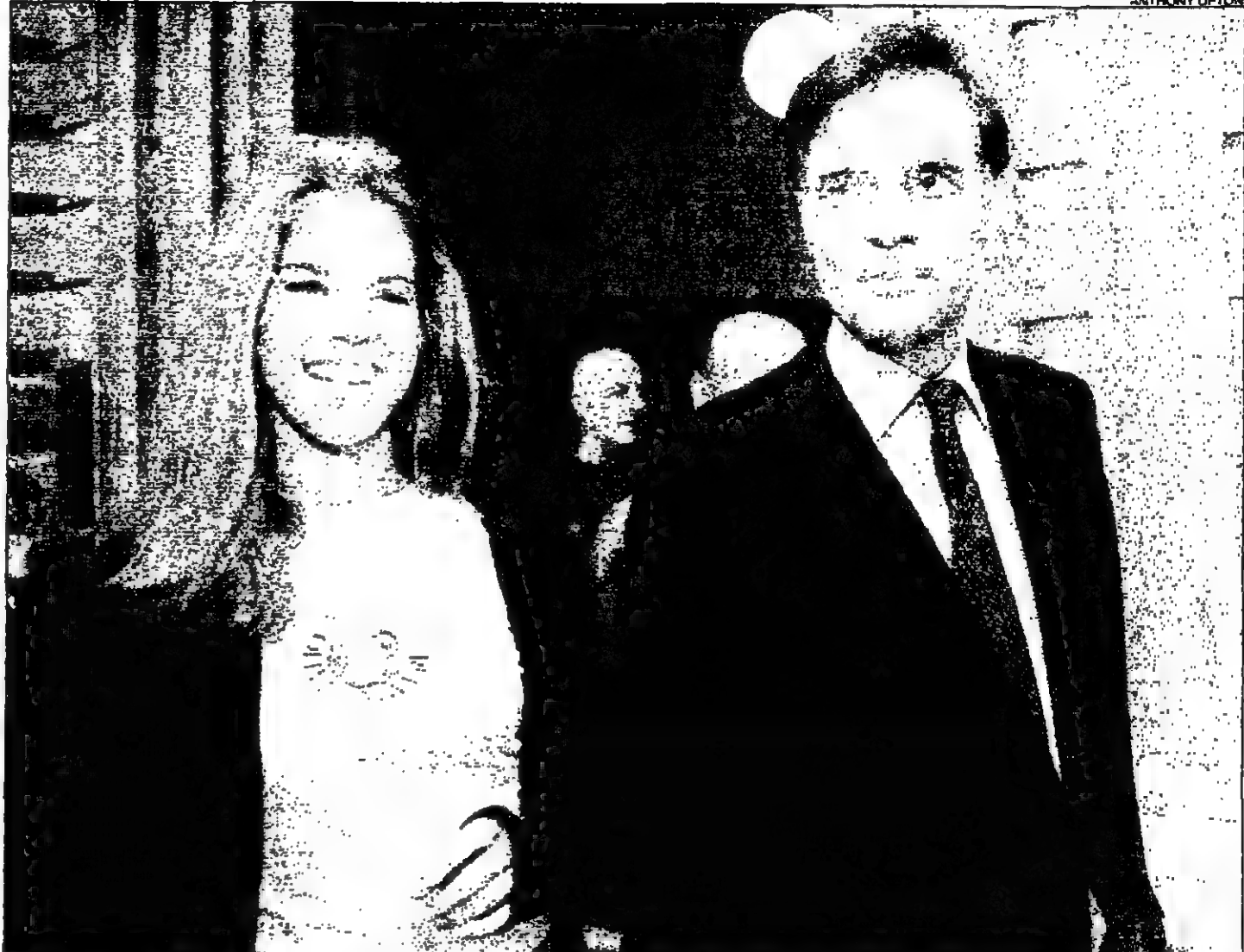
However, Mr George said that although the Bank was aware of the damage interest rate rises could inflict on the manufacturing sector it had no alternative without putting the whole economy at risk.

Pressure for an immediate rate cut was also increasing in the City, after the latest inflation figures showed underlying inflation falling from 2.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent in August — the first time it has hit its target level since January. Headline inflation also fell from 3.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent.

David Hillier, UK economist at Barclays Capital, said: "UK rates could be cut now without threatening the inflation target — a cut does not have to be justified by what is happening in the world markets."

However, other City economists were more sceptical that the Bank would lower rates until pay inflation falls sharply.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Letters, page 17
Rate rise, page 21
TUC reports, page 22



Jonathan Aitken arriving at court with his daughter, Alexandria, to face charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice

Aitken in court to face perjury charge

By TIM JONES

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, yesterday appeared in court to face charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice.

The charges against Mr Aitken, 56, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1994-95, arise from the collapse of his libel action in June last year against *The Guardian* and Granada television's *World in Action* programme.

He was charged in May along with Said Mohammed Ayes, his former business associate.

Mr Aitken, who arrived for the hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court with his advisers and Alexandria, one of his 18-year-old twin daughters, was required to stand in

the dock with Mr Ayes as the charges were read out. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

The men, both in dark business suits, spoke only to confirm their names. They face one joint charge of conspiring, along with Mr Aitken's estranged wife Lolita, to pervert the course of justice between April 9, 1995 and June 4, 1997, he did a series of acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice by making a false statement which he allowed to be submitted in court evidence that Lolita Aitken had been in Paris on September 19, 1993 and paid 4,257 francs in part payment of a bill at the Ritz Hotel.

The next charge of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice states that Mr Aitken, between June 13 and 18, 1997, drafted a statement in the name of Lolita Aitken and obtained her signature for that statement which falsely said she and

respect of the bill of Mr Aitken at the Ritz Hotel.

Mr Aitken alone faces three other charges. The first is that between April 9, 1995 and June 4, 1997, he did a series of acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice by making a false statement which he allowed to be submitted in court evidence that Lolita Aitken had been in Paris on September 19, 1993 and paid 4,257 francs in part payment of a bill at the Ritz Hotel.

The next charge of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice states that Mr Aitken, between June 13 and 18, 1997, drafted a statement in the name of Lolita Aitken and obtained her signature for that statement which falsely said she and

Lolita had travelled by ferry and train to Paris on September 16, 1993 and stated overnight in the flat of the daughter of Said Ayes and that Victoria Aitken had spoken by telephone to her grandmother.

The final charge against Mr Aitken was one of perjury. It says that between June 4 and 14, 1997 having been lawfully sworn as a witness in the High Court libel action he willfully made a statement which he knew to be false. It was that on September 19, 1993, Lolita was in Paris and had paid 4,257 francs to the Ritz Hotel in part payment of his bill.

Said Ayes faces one charge of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice. It is alleged he falsely claimed

Continued on page 2, col 7

Walking Australia in 69 days

By MARIA ALVAREZ

A DIABETIC is claiming a world record after walking across Australia. David Parker, a bookkeeper of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, raised more than £10,000 for the British Diabetic Association with his 2,600-mile trek from Perth to Sydney in 69 days, 11 hours and 28 minutes.

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The walk took 10 months of training. During it Mr Parker had to test his blood seven times a day. He ate pasta, rice, vegetables and fruit and lost 22 kg of body weight.

Mr Parker will be back in England in six weeks looking for another record. "It's a drug. You can't stop. You want to do it again and do it better."

Dobson is snubbed over call to cut price of Viagra for NHS

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

VIAGRA, the impotence drug, will not be reduced in price so that the NHS can afford it, the manufacturers decided yesterday.

On Radio 4's *Today* programme Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, had earlier called for Pfizer to cut the price, apparently unaware that his officials had already agreed to the £4.84 a tablet suggested by the company.

Ken Moran, Pfizer's chairman, said firmly: "We will not lower the price." He added that the price of the pill was half that of existing impotence treatments and the same as that set in other countries where Viagra is licensed.

A price reduction in one country was undesirable because it would lead to people profiteering by buying in that country and exporting to others for resale, he said. The result of the government ban on prescribing Viagra on

the NHS, he said, was the "iniquitous position where the product is available to those men who are able to pay for their own treatment, but not to others".

The Government is in an awkward position, since less effective but more expensive treatments are already available on the NHS. Pfizer has produced a better remedy at a

lower price in a British laboratory and been rewarded by being excluded from the bulk of the market.

Roger Kirby, consultant urologist at St George's Hospital in London, said: "We are now in a position where we have to say to patients that we can't prescribe a £5 pill but can prescribe a £10 injection or put in a £2,500 prosthesis to cure erectile dysfunction."

Yesterday Pfizer was at pains to emphasise that Viagra is a cure for a real medical condition and not a fun drug designed to enable men to have more sex. They estimate that the cost of the drug to the NHS has been grossly overestimated. Mr Moran said that if all men with clinical erectile dysfunction were treated on the NHS, the cost would reach £50 million after five years. "The NHS already spends £12 million a year on erectile dysfunction," he added.

Mr Dobson made it clear on Radio 4 that no more money

would be found for Viagra. "That money isn't there, so therefore we have to take the money away from maternity services for women having babies or people who are being treated for cancer or people who are being treated for heart disease," he said.

"Most people in this country don't think we should finance it through the health service as a sort of recreational drug at the expense of doing things which are more important."

How the Government will prevent doctors prescribing Viagra is not yet clear. There are two grounds on which drugs can be excluded from prescription — lack of clinical effectiveness, or high cost. Putting Viagra in either category would be hard to justify.

Instead the Government hopes to limit prescriptions by defining as narrowly as possible the categories of patients who can have the drug.

Raising a glass, page 3
Leading article, page 17



"Impotence? No, I just can't read the label!"

Police raid bootleg bubbly factory

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRENCH police have dismantled the "bubbly connection", a huge illegal trade in bootleg champagne that has allegedly flourished in the vineyards of northern France for more than a decade.

Last weekend the authorities raided a warehouse in Châlons-sur-Champagne in Epervain and came across an underground factory producing the illicit hooch. As well as presses, vats and

other equipment the investigators discovered "raffia", an aperitif made from champagne, and 35,000 bottles of unlabelled fizz which, police said, had a black market street-value of "several million francs".

Like all wine-making in France, the production of champagne is rigorously regulated and subject to high rates of tax. Producing champagne without a licence in unlabelled bottles is illegal but the authorities are uncertain whether the champagne

was being produced for private consumption or sale.

Police later arrested five people as they arrived at the site. All the suspects are members of the same family of expert champagne-makers who own a nearby vineyard of less than four acres.

"These are, in fact, champagne-lovers who did everything within the rules of the champagne-making art," one investigator said.

Police have yet to establish the provenance of the grapes used or where the black

market champagne was being sold. One possibility, they say, is that the alleged bootleggers collected excess grapes from various parts of champagne country and then sold the resulting drink to connoisseurs or café owners.

Another possibility is that the moonshine champagne was sold under the counter to larger producers who simply labelled it as their own, again in contravention of the rules.

Police sources in Epervain described the champagne as "definitely the real thing".

Hague ballot under fire

Michael Heseltine branded William Hague's plan to ballot the Conservatives over the single currency an "irrelevance".

In a withering assault, he said that it would succeed only in "reinforcing the prejudices of minorities". Mr Heseltine broke his silence on the Tory leader's snap ballot after Mr Hague had called him and other pro-European elders a deluded elite. Page 2

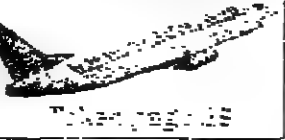
Clinton videotape may go public

A videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony may be made public.

The House Judiciary Committee will decide how to issue the remaining two thousand pages of material and the videotape which was sent to Congress with the Starr Report. Page 11

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Illegal black militant school investigated

THE militant black group that demonstrated at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is to be investigated by the Government for running an illegal school in London.

The Nation of Islam, which aims to create a separate state for blacks, failed to register the 60-pupil school which has been operating from three rooms in a Hammersmith community centre since last November. The Department for Education and Employment has given the school one month to register or face court proceedings. Nation of Islam members could face a three-month prison sentence.

A spokesman for the department

Nation of Islam faces court action for teaching 60 pupils in community centre, reports Victoria Fletcher

said: "Because it is a private school it needs to be officially registered with us in order for us to ensure that the teachers are up to standard and allow inspectors to check on the educational standards maintained. If they fail to do this, we will issue a court order."

The department was tipped off about the school months before by Hammersmith and Fulham Council, but had apparently been reluctant to tackle the Nation of Islam about it.

David Willets, the Shadow Edu-

cation Secretary, said that ministers should have acted immediately. "It is shocking that the Government does nothing for two months and one wonders what their motivations were. If this school was a normal private school not associated with the Nation of Islam, they would have acted far more quickly."

The British wing of the Nation of Islam was founded in 1986 and part of its aims includes the creation of a separate black state for its 2,000 British members. Pupil numbers

at the organisation's three schools in Hackney and Shepherd's Bush are thought to have increased after a series of government reports over the past two years found that a disproportionate number of black pupils underachieved, and that black pupils were six times more likely to be excluded.

Lessons are thought to focus on African and Islamic subjects. Girls and boys are taught separately and both are encouraged to take GCSEs aged 16.

Yesterday the education department

denied that it had been slow to investigate the school. A spokesman said: "We were not aware of the school until it was in a recent newspaper article. We have to have concrete evidence of where these schools are operating before we can investigate them. The local police were involved in trying to locate them, but so far they have had no success."

The department admitted that it had not asked the Nation of Islam about the school or its location.

In November last year, the

Nation of Islam rented three rooms in a Hammersmith community centre for educational purposes. Soon after they moved in, the council realised the premises were being used to house a full-time school for more than 60 pupils.

"We warned them that it is not an appropriate place for them to be running a school and asked them to find alternative accommodation in August," Hammersmith and Fulham Council said.

Infuriated by the disruption a move would cause to pupils, mem-

bers of the school demonstrated outside Hammersmith Town Hall and have subsequently been offered longer to find alternative accommodation. "There is no debate that there is a school operating there," the council spokeswoman added.

A spokeswoman for Hammersmith and Fulham Council said that it had warned the department about the school. "We told them about it months ago. But if it is not registered as a private school, that is a job for the DFEE to investigate, not us."

"We told the department it was there and it is over to them."

Reader's Digest forced to sell art collection

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FINANCIAL turmoil has forced the US publishers of *Reader's Digest* to sell its \$100 million art collection that includes works by Monet, Chagall and Van Gogh.

The philanthropic association, based in New York, is confronted with the harsh realities of Wall Street. Its founders, the *Reader's Digest* Association, bought one of the most expensive art collections in corporate America with proceeds from its journalistic anthologies which often condensed complex subjects to fit into a few pages.

However, circulation of its main publication has fallen below the minimum guaranteed to advertisers, and the company's share price has dropped while the stock market boomed.

New management is trying to salvage the association's self-proclaimed mission to promote beauty in the form of good writing, by sacrificing the arguably greater beauty of its famous Impressionist paintings.

Sotheby's in New York will auction the paintings on November 16 and 17 at the height of the autumn auction season.

Computer giant IBM and CBS, the broadcaster, have recently complied with shareholders who wanted money in the bank rather than hanging

on the boardroom walls in the form of oil and canvas.

But *Reader's Digest* was not expected to follow the giant corporations down the same route towards the absolute dominance of accountants over artists.

The company sold a Monet and a Van Gogh for \$6.2 million last May.

Thomas Ryder, the executive chairman, said: "Our art collection is truly part of the heritage of the company. However, we can put the worth of these most valuable works to better and more effective use by investing in growth opportunities for the company."

Mr Ryder, who switched from American Express to *Reader's Digest* in April will be paid \$4.4 million over three years.

He was hired to inspire the company and he said nothing was sacred at the head office in Pleasantville, New York.

The art collection was started in the 1940s by Lila Acheson Wallace and DeWitt Wallace, the company founders.

Collecting was their passion. In their best-selling magazine, they compiled examples of the best writing from around the globe, and in their private archives they hoarded Impressionist masterpieces.



THIS picture of the heart of government shows an addition which might have made the pulse of earlier ministers race. Gordon Brown has become the first Chancellor of the Exchequer to install a personal computer on his desk (Valerie Elliott writes). In a room built in 1908 for ministers who used quills, Mr Brown now has two machines — the more sophisticated

Small change in Treasury

one is on test. He spends hours hunched over the monitor and keyboard, but if he wishes to write a personal note, a Victorian stationery cabinet to his left contains Treasury notepaper and envelopes. Mr Brown's black telephone has direct lines to

Treasury officials: the white one is for direct calls to No 10 and to his girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay. At the far end of the office, which will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday as part of the Heritage Open Days, is an area where Mr Brown likes to study

the daily newspapers, often relaxing on the sofa or one of the easy chairs. Treasury officials said Anthony Barber, Chancellor under the Heath Government in 1970-74, was the first to occupy this room. But while the computers are new, the green banker's lamp and old-fashioned manual date-changer have been accoutrements of the office for nearly 30 years.

Murdoch is cuckoo in soccer's nest, TUC is told

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association yesterday accused Rupert Murdoch of being a "TV cuckoo in football's nest" as he attacked the proposed takeover of Manchester United by BSkyB.

Speaking at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool, Gordon Taylor said that the national game was becoming more business than sport. "The two worlds do not sit easily together and I feel that sport needs government protection from business."

He urged Tony Blair to draw up laws to "protect the integrity of sport" in the same way that other countries had created anti-trust laws to provide fair competition.

Mr Taylor said that he had been particularly concerned about the initial government response to the problems arising from the bid by Mr Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, which he claimed presented an obvious conflict of interests. BSkyB is an associate company of News Corp, parent company of *The Times*. He said anarchy would result if clubs were allowed to do their own deals outside the leagues.

The big clubs stood to gain more dominance through pay TV. "After all, pay TV is the reason behind Murdoch's desire to own Manchester United. He wants to force through his own interests by having influence on both sides of any negotiations — TV cuckoo in football's nest."

"Murdoch is not a union man but for football to continue as our national game both the interests of the leagues and the unions must be protected by government help."

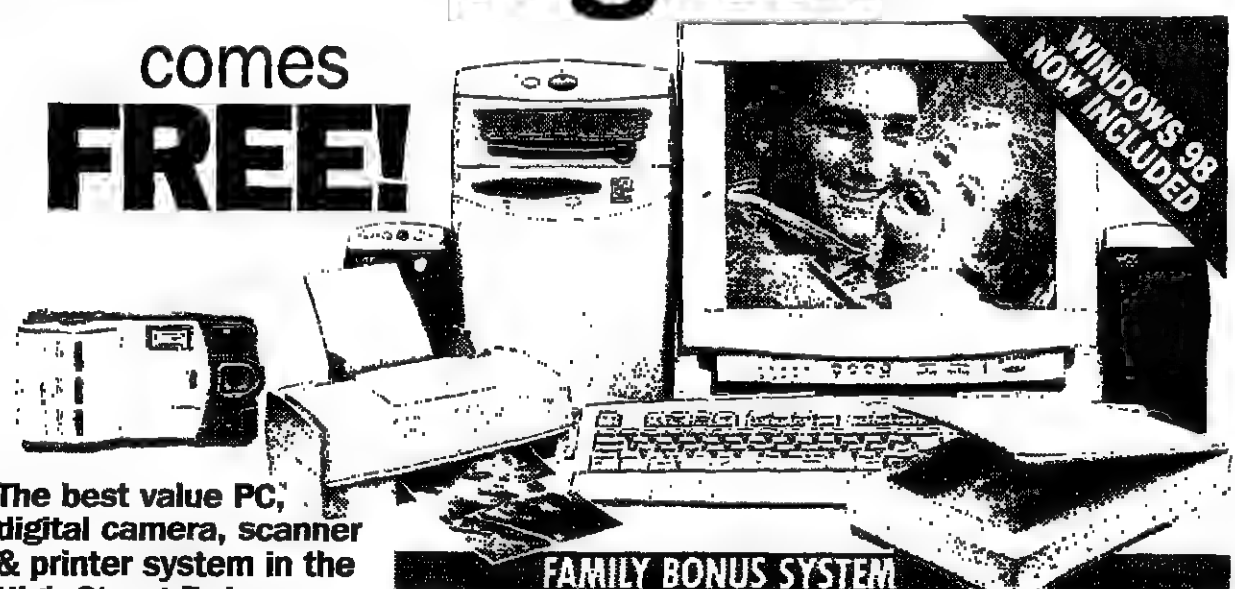
Mr Taylor was not optimistic. He said it was bad enough that after waiting 20 years for a Labour Government that a discredited former Tory Cabinet minister (David Mellor) was leading a government taskforce into football.

The government had passed the buck on interest rates to the Bank of England and according to some reports was considering giving the powers to take decisions on takeovers to an independent commission. "Governments must govern. Was it Harry Truman who had a sign on his desk stating 'The buck stops here'?"

"New Labour should remember its roots and not spend so much time placating those at the other end of the political spectrum who would have them out of office tomorrow if they could."

TUC at Blackpool, page 22

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DONCASTER OPENS SATURDAY

Heseltine says Hague ballot is irrelevant

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine last night branded William Hague's plan to ballot the Tories over the single currency an "irrelevant" in a withering assault, he said it would succeed only in "reinforcing the prejudices of minorities".

As Mr Hague urged party members to use the vote to "put the antagonisms of the past behind us", the former Deputy Prime Minister said the plan was doomed.

He broke his silence on the Tory leader's snap ballot after Mr Hague had called him and other pro-European elders a "clique". His intervention showed that Mr Hague's hope of drawing a line under the Tory civil war over Europe was already under strain.

Mr Heseltine said: "It's an appeal for loyalty to the leader which cannot succeed, an appeal directed towards the membership of a party trailing away behind in the polls."

"The challenge for the Con-



Heseltine said ballot would bolster prejudices

servative Party is to win back the four million people who voted for either the Labour or the Liberal party, both of which campaigned on a pro-European ticket. Reinforcing the prejudices of minorities has limited prospect of success in a bid to rejoin a majority."

His comments marked the opening night of Mr Hague's tour of the country in which he called for an end to the internal divisions over Europe which had and "paralysed"

the party in recent years. Mr Hague launched his own attack on the pro-Europeans in the Tory ranks, saying the days when a "small elite" in the party acted without reference to members was over.

He hit out at those pro-Europeans who were "ready enough in the past to appear on our television screens attacking party policy" but who were ignoring the referendum.

"If you decide party democracy as unnecessary, and if you treat this ballot as irrelevant, then you will be making yourselves irrelevant," Mr Hague told activists in Plymouth last night.

Mr Clarke, the former Chancellor, has already said he will take no part in the ballot. Mr Patten, the former Hong Kong governor, and Tory chairman, said he will vote against Mr Hague's policy of ruling out entry into the single currency for this Parliament and the next.

Mr Heseltine said last night he had "not given it a lot of thought. It's an irrelevance."

Appeal for family of Arnhem soldier

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE ARMY was last night hoping to trace relatives of a Second World War soldier who will be buried without any next of kin at his graveside unless a last-minute public appeal succeeds.

The body of Corporal George Froud, 27, will be laid to rest with full military honours at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Oosterbeek, Holland, on Friday, more than 50 years after he died at Arnhem. He was posted missing on September 21, 1944, but his remains were not found until last year during building work in a garden in Lennepweg, near Oosterbeek.

The Army identified him from his Border Regiment insignia, beret with the name Froud inside and a cigarette case with the initials GF.

However, a search by the Ministry of Defence failed to trace any relatives.

Army records show that Cpl Froud married Vera Frances Jay in February, 1940, while living in Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. They had a son, Terrance, who was adopted, the Army believes, by Mrs Froud's sister Winnie who is thought to have married a man named Marsh. Cpl Froud's wife Vera remarried in July 1952, and took the name Harris and is thought to have moved to the Oxford area.

Glider pilots Sergeant David Thompson, 27, and Sergeant Laurence Howes, 28, will also be buried. Their bodies were found four years ago in Sonnenberg and their relatives will attend the service.

Aitken in court on perjury charges

Continued from page 1

that Leticia and Victoria Aitken had stayed in the Paris flat of his daughter.

It is claimed also that he lied when he claimed he saw Leticia Aitken on September 19, 1993, in the Ritz hotel and was told by her she had paid the bill of her husband.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday, October 19.

Although Mrs Aitken is named in the indictment, she has not been charged. She split up from her husband following the collapse of the libel trial and is understood to be abroad.

At the end of the proceedings, Mr Aitken and his daughter faced a scrum of photographers and reporters as they left the court building. They smiled at the cameras as they walked the 30 yards through the rain to their car, but said nothing.



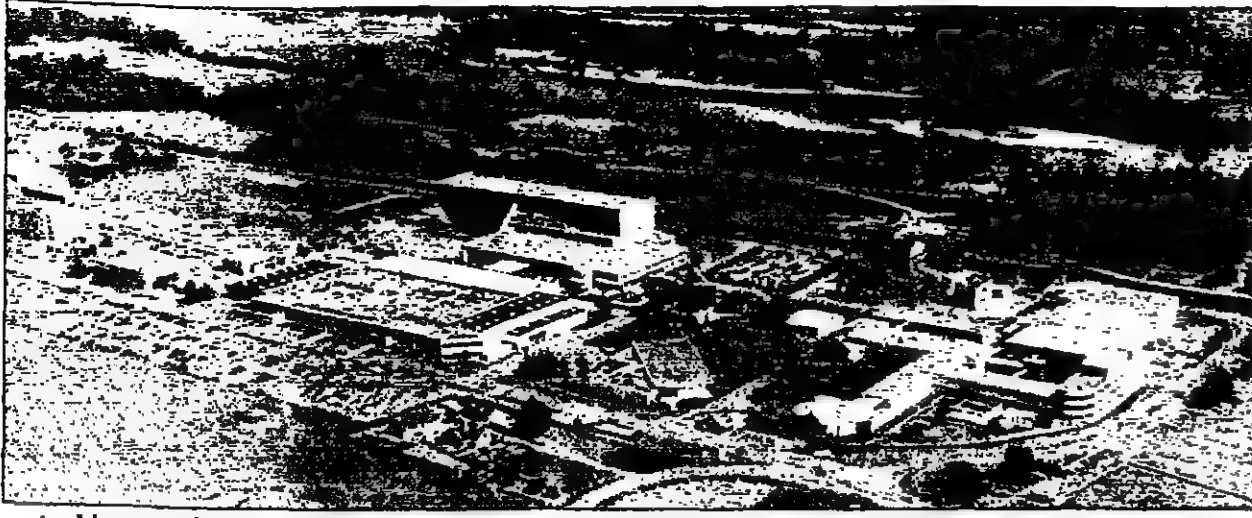
Said Ayes leaving court after yesterday's hearing

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Investigation

Loire valley raises a glass to Viagra



A white metal fence topped with razor wire surrounds Viagra City, a jumble of 100ft high windowless buildings. Drug factory overshadows the history and the Vouvray wine of Amboise

Words: DANIEL McGRORY Pictures: PETER NICHOLLS

EXPLICIT drawings decorate the Chateau d'Amboise left by Leonardo da Vinci after a lifetime studying the human body. But the master of invention could not have imagined the improvement to the male form now on offer in this town on the banks of the Loire.

A mile from where Leonardo spent his last days and where for two centuries French kings held court, Pfizer, the chemical conglomerate, is pumping out Viagra pills by the million. Local dignitaries are perturbed that four guides are already calling Amboise "Viagra Valley" and that an impotence pill is more sought after than the Vouvray and the rest of its wines.

Christopher Jones, director of the mayor's office said yesterday: "There is passionate interest in Viagra at the moment, but we hope it will fade away when the frenzy dies down. We appreciate what it's worth to our economy, but we want Chateau Amboise to be a bigger draw than Chateau Pfizer."

You can see the chemical plant from the Gothic ramparts of the chateau, much of it built in the 15th century by Charles VIII, who spent his childhood here. Sprawled out for about half a mile alongside the Loire is Viagra City, a jumble of warehouses, storage tanks and laboratories barricaded behind white metal fencing topped with razor wire. A line of plane trees is dwarfed by grey pre-fabricated windowless buildings 100ft high. Video cameras and security guards usually deter the curious, but yesterday plant director Jean Lhoste wanted to show off what he describes as "the most successful and exciting drug of all time".

Producing a blue and white packet from his pocket, M Lhoste said: "We will make tens of millions of these a year, working around the clock, to satisfy Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Frankly we can't keep up with demands."

Aware of the rising excitement and the risible reputation Viagra is acquiring, M Lhoste said: "Remember we are making a true medicine, not a fun drug, though of course we want to make money."

Consignments leave in unmarked lorries to deter hijackers, and the first supplies to Britain were sent a week ago in secret.

M Lhoste says it is impossible to stop every tablet from going astray. "We do not snoop on our 640 staff. We trust them and they are aware of their responsibilities." But he admitted that Pfizer may introduce surveillance cameras on Viagra production lines. There, staff are clad in white overalls, masks and

shower caps for their own protection. "They are not embarrassed about what they're handling. It's just another drug to them," he said.

The local men are indignant, however, that the location of this plant suggests they may have a particular need for Viagra's properties. At the pharmacist's nearest the factory, Michel Grosdemange said no one has been asking him for Viagra, but he does regularly have to top up the condom machine outside of his shop.

Over bottles of Amboise's more traditional and convivial export last night, businessman Henri Paulet said: "The men here do fine on our wines, and our women have no complaints as far as I know."



Amboise Viagra plant director Jean Lhoste

6 We will make tens of millions of these a year, working around the clock, to satisfy Europe, Africa and the Middle East. We can't keep up with demands?



The Amboise warehouse from where the millions of Viagra pills are distributed

tal worries about what the plant might do to our grapes. We don't breathe in Viagra, though perhaps some might want to."

Amboise has been an important site since prehistoric times. The Celts and the Romans appreciated its strategic significance and in the 11th century three lords fought a 20-year war for control of this route along the Loire. Work on the chateau originally began

in the 12th century but it was Charles VIII and his childhood attachment to Amboise that was responsible for much of what remains.

In 1498, the excitable young king was taking his queen to see a game of fives when he hit his head on a lintel of a door and died within nine hours. His successors, Louis XII and Francois I, continued to build at Amboise but without the same passion. Francois

occasionally installed his court there but put it at the disposal of Leonardo da Vinci who lived there from 1516 for the last three years of his life. He brought the *Mona Lisa* and other favourite works with him. He is buried in the heart of the castle.

Last night the occupants of Amboise were considering the consequences of what its new product could bring back to life.

Hot-blooded Europeans will pay to protect their reputation

FRANCE

FRANCE is awaiting the arrival of Viagra with bated breath (Susan Bell writes). Contrary to their reputation as the world's greatest lovers, it is estimated that nearly three million, or one in ten, French men suffers from sexual problems ranging from lack of libido to complete impotence.

Yesterday, *France Soir* and *Le Parisien* trumpeted the news of the drug's approval across their front pages. However *la pilule d'amour* will not actually be in the pharmacies until early October when a stampede is confidently predicted.

Viagra, which will retail at Fr60 a tablet, will be available only on prescription and will not be reimbursed by social security. Stocks of France's natural alternative, Tigris, sold out in the first week when it was launched in July.

Jean-Louis Golland, a chef, has been prosecuted for serving Viagra sauce in his restaurant in Thonon-Les-Bains, which was offered as an accompaniment to the médaillons de boeuf.

GERMANY

GERMANS have been flooding to Switzerland to buy Viagra (Roger Boyes writes). It sells for about £270 for 30 and in Poland "Viagra tourists" pay about £50 for three pills on the black market.

Germany's Viagra policy is fuzzy. Health ministry officials assumed yesterday that the country would follow the European Union, which has authorised the marketing of Viagra.

The German Federal Chamber of Physicians — which advises the health minister — has ruled that the drug should not be subsidised by

state insurance. Eight million German men suffer from potency problems. Health experts calculate that if the men took the £9 pill twice a week, the health insurance budget would rise to more than £6 billion a year.

The question is whether this ruling could be upheld in court. One court has already decided that a patient should have his insurance costs covered for treatment with a similar drug.

ITALY

VIAGRA will be available in Italy in December for about £6 a pill, after the Italian ministry of health completed bureaucratic procedures to comply with both the Brussels directive and Italian regulations (Richard Owen writes). It is classed as a Band C pharmaceutical, for which the patient has to pay the full cost privately. Drugs are strictly controlled in Italy: only 5,500 are on the approved register, compared with 35,000 in Britain and 50,000 in the United States.

Despite the macho image of the

Italian male, magazines have run repeated cover stories on what they claim is a widespread impotence problem. Eighty per cent of Italian men questioned in one poll this week said they had heard of Viagra. Of those, 10 per cent said they would consider taking it, but 30 per cent thought it would be "far too harmful or dangerous". In Pisa, moves to pull the Leaning Tower upright have been dubbed the Viagra plan.

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Viagra tablets come in three sizes: 25, 50 and 100 mg.

The name came 'off the shelf' — it means nothing.

Each 100mg tablet costs the National Health Service £5.85, 50mg tablets cost £4.84 and 25mg tablets are £4.15 each. They come in packs of four or eight.

Known side-effects of Viagra include headaches, flushing of the face, ruddiness and odd colour tinges in vision.

Viagra does not react with alcohol, but drinking is not recommended as it can impair erections.

Viagra must not be taken more than once a day because this risks greater side effects.

It takes an hour to work, though some men respond in as little as 25 minutes. Three-quarters of men who take the drug have reported better erections.

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Available: End of year
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Available: Oct 5 with local prescription
NHS: No decision
Price: n/a

Available: Soon, with local prescription
NHS: No
Price: n/a

Available: 1st week October, with UK prescription
NHS: No
Price: £6

Available: No date
NHS: No
Price: estimate £9

Available: October
NHS: Yes
Price: n/a

Available: End of September
NHS: Not yet
Price: £5

Available: December
NHS: No
Price: £6

Available: 2 to 3 weeks
NHS: No
Price: £5

Available: Asap, with local prescription
NHS: decision in 6 months
Price: decision in 6 months

Available: Asap
NHS: No decision
Price: n/a

Available: Two weeks
NHS: Yes
Price: £4.60 for 25mg

Available: Now
NHS: no
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Police Superintendents' Conference

DNA detectives will fit a face to a flake of skin

A SINGLE flake of dandruff will soon be enough for scientists to build up a criminal's photofit, police commanders were told yesterday.

Experts believe they will be able to create "genetic e-fits", using information gleaned from a DNA sample to build a picture of a suspect's race, build, eye and hair colour, and even behavioural characteristics.

Within a year, forensic scientists will be able to take DNA samples from minute scraps of skin left at the scene of a burglary and from such surfaces as the steering wheel of a stolen car, the keyboard of a computer and the outside of a drink can. They will be able to identify DNA from the wrappings round illegal drugs that dealers and couriers had hidden in their bodies.

The photofit will be available within a decade. It will include the height of the suspect and other details including the shape of the ears and chin and inherited physical defects.

The DNA advances were forecast yesterday by Kevin Sullivan, DNA research and

Stewart
Tendler on
how science is
catching up
with the
criminal

development manager for the Forensic Science Service, speaking to the annual conference of the Police Superintendents' Association in Bristol. He said that genetic profiling was the "Holy Grail" for scientists but would be achieved within ten years, aided by international work on gene identification.

Dr Sullivan, who worked on the identification of the remains of the last Tsar, Nicholas II, said that the breakthrough in taking DNA samples from dandruff would allow investigators to take material from the tiny parti-

cles of human skin that are found at every scene. He said: "People are constantly shedding skin cells. The majority of household dust is made up of dead skin and we know we can get DNA from an individual skin cell."

He said that an armed robber could be tracked down by DNA evidence taken within 12 months from flakes of dandruff left behind in a discarded balaclava. It is a person's DNA, contained in every cell in the body, which predicts an enormous range of characteristics including skin, hair and eye colour, bone structure and even propensity to some illnesses and personality traits.

He told the conference that DNA testing had become "1,000 times more sensitive" in the past decade. Whereas ten years ago scientists needed a bloodstain the size of a 10p piece to conduct a test, they now required just a pin-prick invisible to the naked eye.

DNA samples would soon be used to re-examine unsolved sex cases and could even be used in miscarriage-of-justice cases. Scientists were

working on ways of extracting DNA from sperm samples taken many years ago and still being stored.

New developments meant it was possible to identify bodies that had been hidden for some time. DNA can be taken from hair shafts in the skull, from bone and faeces and matched with the mothers of possible victims.

Work was developing on portable DNA testing facilities which could be used at the

scenes of crimes to speed up investigations.

Dr Sullivan said mass screening in major inquiries had grown. Since the first screening in 1987, in a double murder case in Leicestershire, there had been 91 screening operations in Britain involving 26,000 samples. Offenders were identified in 30 cases and in one case a suspect walked into a police station and gave himself up when DNA screening was announced by police.

Dr Sullivan said that in the next five years scientists would improve the collection of DNA samples from blood and saliva left on surfaces such as cigarettes.

Further work on identifying DNA in animals would begin next year. He said this could be used to solve crimes against humans. Children who were assaulted sometimes left hairs from their pets on the clothing of their attackers, which could be used to identify suspects.



Robert Smith, whose daughter's killer was caught after mass DNA tests, addressing the conference yesterday against a backdrop of her picture.

Pain will never end, says father of murdered girl

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE father of a murdered girl whose killer was caught by DNA testing said yesterday that the £1.25 million cost of the inquiry was nothing compared with the human cost being paid by her family.

Robert Smith said that he and his wife would never get over the devastation caused by the abduction, rape and murder of their daughter, Louise, 18, who vanished on Christmas Day, 1995.

"The knowledge that Louise was dead was bad enough, but to know what she had been subjected to was, and still is, unbearable. We thought then of her terror, her pain and the violation she endured to satisfy someone's selfish, cowardly and depraved desires," he said.

"Louise's suffering is something that is always with us, and always will be."

David Frost, an engineering student, was sentenced to life imprisonment in February after investigations involving 700 officers. Miss Smith had disappeared on her way home from a nightclub at Yate near Bristol. Her body was found nearly two months later in a quarry but it took two years to catch Frost.

Detective Superintendent John Newman, of Avon and Somerset police, said yesterday that DNA samples were recovered from the scene where the body was found despite the effects of the

weather over eight weeks. Police then began what at the time was the largest mass screening and asked for mouth swabs from 4,500 local men. Each swab cost £41.50 to analyse and the bill for screening came to £250,000. Frost had left Britain but was swabbed in South Africa and brought back for trial. He admitted the killing.

Mr Smith, speaking as family photographs of his daughter were projected on a screen behind him, said that the only thing which kept the family living in the weeks after her death was a determination to see her killer caught. But despite their elation at Frost's conviction, Mr Smith, 51, said that since the trial the family no longer had a goal to keep them going.

He said that he and his wife were still suffering from depression. "Christmas is the worst time. We have nothing to celebrate and the festivities which others are enjoying seem to be mocking us."

Last month Miss Smith would have been 21.

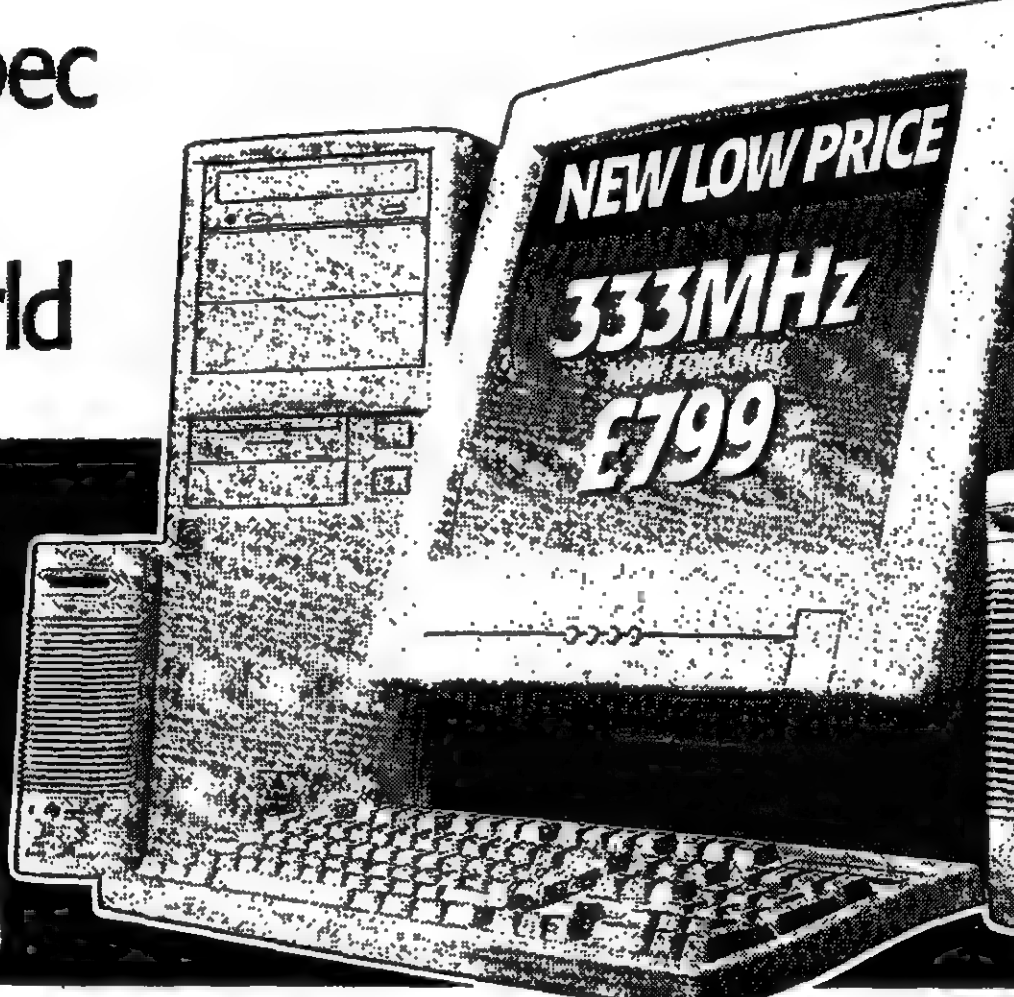
"It was hard to believe one person could cause so much harm and misery but that is what murder does."

Mr Smith said there was no "coming to terms" with such a crime. "The anger generated by what happened is indescribable and has not diminished with time. In fact, it has intensified."

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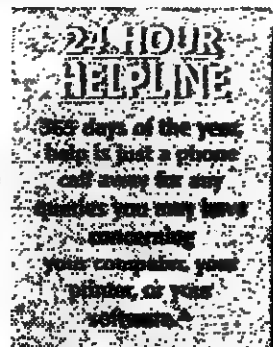
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Couple go missing with foster children

By Deborah Colclutt

POLICE are searching for a childless couple who disappeared with their two foster children after being summoned to a meeting with social workers.

It is feared that Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley, from Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, may have fled in the belief that the two sisters, Jade and Hannah Bennett, were about to be taken away from them. The couple are believed to have wanted to adopt the girls.

The Bramleys, who have looked after Jade, 4, and Hannah, 3, since March were telephoned on Sunday evening by Cambridgeshire County Council social services department. They were reported missing after failing to turn up for the meeting the next morning in Huntingdon.

Police and social services described the Bramleys as being in a distressed state. Their disappearance is being treated as a missing persons inquiry and all sea and airports have been put on alert.

Police searched the couple's house and confirmed that their car and passports were missing. Liz Rulison, the director of Cambridgeshire social services, said her department had tried to act in the best interests of the children.

"That has meant we have had to make some decisions which were distressing to the couple. I am entirely clear in my own mind that we have acted properly."

She said nothing had happened to indicate to social workers that the couple were about to disappear. Their nat-

ural mother has been kept informed of the search.

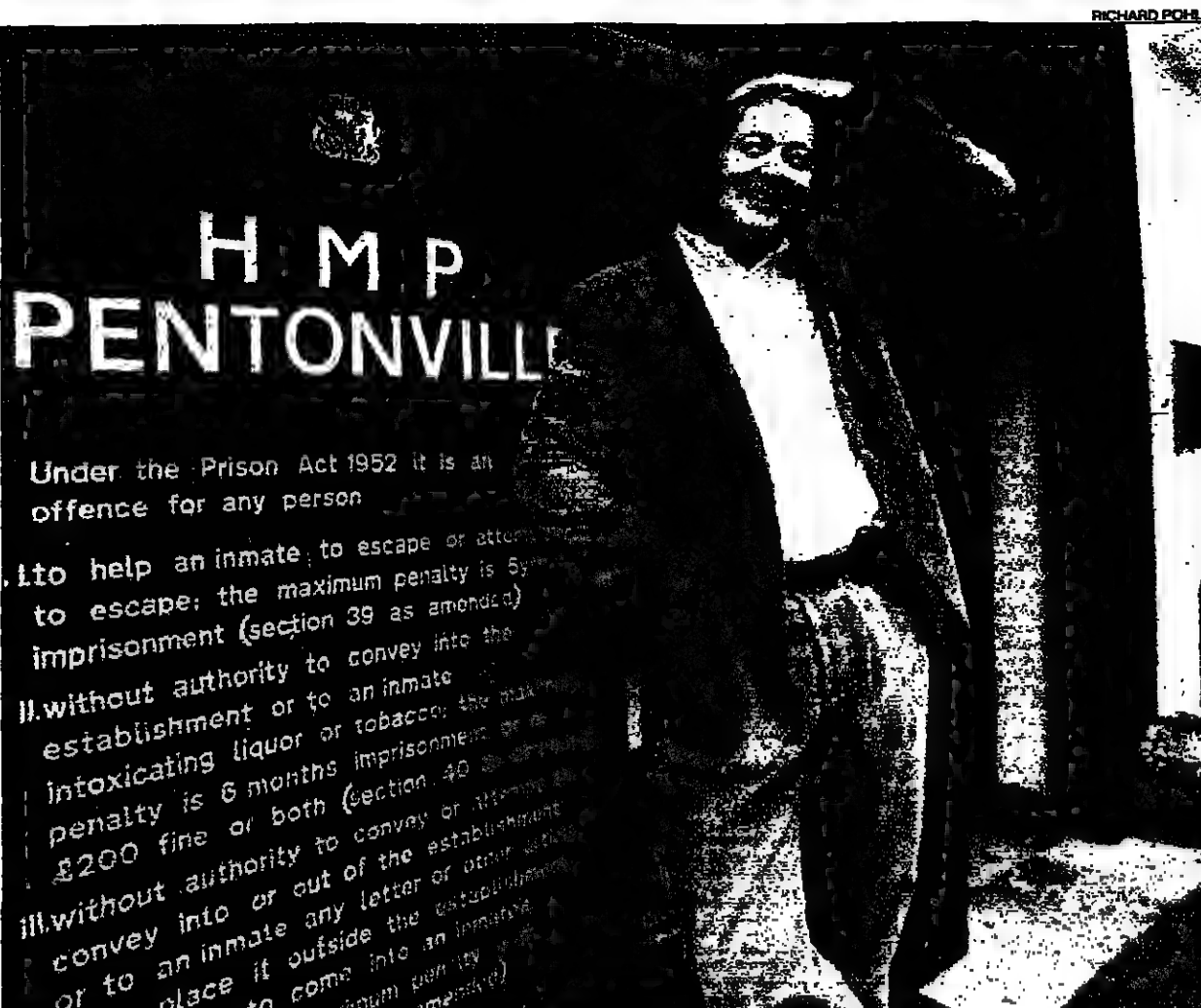
Mr Bramley, a Royal Mail worker in Peterborough, rang his office on Monday to say he would not be coming in because he was ill. Since then the four have not been seen. Ms Rulison said: "We are concerned because of the couple's distress and their disappearance without warning or trace."

"There has never been any concern that Mr and Mrs Bramley would physically harm these children. Staff in the social services have been trying to support the couple for a couple of months."

Mr and Mrs Bramley are on the social services approved foster parent list. Neighbours said they seemed to be devoted to the two girls. One said: "The children seemed very happy and they were often out playing with them. They doted on the children."

Sergeant Chris Skepper of Cambridgeshire Constabulary said: "I would urge anyone who knows where they might have gone or who saw them leave to come forward. I am concerned for all four people, but in particular for the two young girls."

The couple are thought to have left in a blue Honda Concerto, registration G152 SHR. Jade is said to have fair hair and blue eyes. She is about 3ft tall, sturdy and has a mole on her right cheek. Hannah has fair to light brown hair, blue eyes and is about 2ft 9in. She is also of sturdy build.



Cell mate: the actor and former inmate Stephen Fry outside Pentonville Prison to attend the launch of Unlock

Fry goes back to jail for launch of ex-convicts' group

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE comic actor Stephen Fry visited Pentonville prison yesterday to launch an "old boys' association" for ex-convicts aimed at helping them stay out of trouble on their release.

Fry, who spent several months on remand in a Young Offender Institution after going on a spending spree with a stolen credit card, is the director of the new organisation, Unlock.

He told inmates and staff at the prison, in North London, that he had survived his months in the YOI at Pucklechurch near Bristol because he had been educated at an English public school.

Fry, 40, who is related to the well-known 19th-century prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry, said he had been happiest while in prison when he was helping others, including assisting a young offender from Wales to learn to read. He recalled being nicknamed "the Professor" by other inmates and spending three hours a week in the chapel playing the piano and practising hymns for services. "The

best way to make people feel worthwhile is to get them to do something for other people. That is what Unlock aims to do," he said.

Unlock wants to give offenders the chance to offer advice to the Government and the Prison Service on what is needed to help offenders in jail or on their release. It aims to provide a discharge package for every prisoner, giving basic details about benefits, housing, employment and how to manage a budget.

The organisation, whose president is Sir Stephen Turnin, the former chief inspector of prisons, also wants ex-offenders to join prison visiting boards.

Richard Tilt, director general of the Prison Service, welcomed the organisation, which was the idea of Mark Leech, a former prisoner. Mr Tilt said: "We need to make use of the expertise of people who have come out of prison and have made a success of turning away from crime. They know what needs to be done far better than we do."

Pain will never end, says father of murdered girl



Hannah and Jade Bennett, who were reported missing after their foster parents failed to attend a meeting

Doctor left after 'botched' surgery

By Deborah Colclutt

A GYNAECOLOGIST performed a patient's bladder during a botched hysterectomy operation, left her bleeding and failed to investigate the cause, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

It was claimed that Rodney Ledward, 58, a consultant, had switched off his mobile telephone after leaving the hospital, having ordered a test. A sister at the Bupa St Saviour's Hospital in Hythe, Kent, was unable to make contact with Mr Ledward and was forced to call Dr John Davis, a gynaecologist from the nearby William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

Dr Davis told the hearing in central London that he had tried to contact Mr Ledward when he observed that the patient required urgent surgery. He said: "I tried him three times on his mobile, which said it was switched off. The next day, he told me his mobile phone had not been working on the coastal road."

Mr Ledward is accused of 14 counts of misconduct at William Harvey and St Saviour's between 1989 and 1996. He denies the charges.

In December Mr Ledward was dismissed from the South Kent Hospitals NHS Trust.

Son died in flames after row at party

By A Correspondent

A MOTHER thought her 24-year-old son was going to give her a hug after an argument. But as he walked past a lighted candelabra, James Jenvey's petrol-soaked shirt burst into flames, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Jenvey, a trainee supermarket manager, had deliberately spilt the fuel on his clothes after an argument with his girlfriend, Lisa Barry, 19, during a dinner party at his mother's country home. He suffered 60 per cent burns in the accident at the thatched cottage at Breamore, Hampshire, and died three days later.

Detective Sergeant Robert Bowness told the hearing in Southampton that during the row, Mr Jenvey had pushed Miss Barry onto the kitchen floor. His mother, Eunice Jenvey, 47, had called him a bully and, when he threatened to pour petrol on himself and set light to it, had said: "Go on then, I'll get the matches." Some time later, Mr Jenvey had walked towards her as if to give her a cuddle. "It was then that he burst into a ball of flame."

More than forty firefighters battled in vain for more than five hours to put out the blaze, which eventually destroyed the cottage.

DS Bowness stressed there was no evidence that Mr Jenvey had been suicidal. Recording a verdict of accidental death, Keith Wiseman, the Southampton coroner, said: "I don't think the matters in the dispute have any direct bearing on what occurred." He added: "I would like those present not to feel any responsibility or blame for what occurred on the evening in question. It is quite clear what happened was an accident in the truest sense of the word."

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Plans to end the Bar's monopoly split profession

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE legal profession divided yesterday over proposals to curb its restrictive practices. A leading QC said the Lord Chancellor's plans to give the Government final control over who appeared in the courts amounted to a "quiet constitutional revolution".

Sydney Kentridge said the proposals had the potential to destroy the independence of the legal profession. However, the Law Society, representing solicitors, came out strongly in support of the plans, which will see an end to the Bar's near-monopoly of advocacy rights in the Crown Court and above. It said the proposals, outlined by Lord Irvine of Lairg in a consultation paper in June, would improve consumer choice and called on the Government to press ahead with legislation.

In his opinion commissioned for the Bar, which has been sent to the Lord Chancellor, Mr Kentridge says that for 700 years authority over court advocates has ultimately resided in the judges. The proposals would erode that authority and the independence of the Bar. "It is no exaggeration to characterise the proposals in the consultation paper as amounting to a constitutional revolution."

Under the proposals, he says, the judiciary would no longer have the power to decide who may appear before them, just a right to be consulted. "It would remove from the judiciary a power and function which has been exercised by the judges in this country for some hundreds of years and would transfer it to the executive."

Lord Irvine is also proposing an end to the veto now enjoyed by senior judges over who should have the right to present cases in the courts.

Russell Wallman, director of policy at the Law Society, observing that Lord Irvine's proposals would enable more solicitors to exercise rights of audience, said the new system of deciding who should have such rights was also to be welcomed.

The Legal Action Group also strongly endorsed Lord Irvine's proposals yesterday. The group, which represents legal aid lawyers and advice workers, said that the "ultimate decision-making power should rest with the Lord Chancellor, in his capacity as government minister, not as head of the judiciary."

The Bar is not opposed to allowing trained solicitors into the higher courts, but it is against allowing lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution

Service to be allowed into the Crown Court, arguing this would undermine the independence of the prosecution process.

Mr Kentridge says that Lord Irvine's consultation paper cites many reasons for extending advocacy rights in the higher courts beyond the Bar. "But it gives no reason whatsoever why the judges should be regarded as no longer fit to carry out their centuries-old constitutional function in regard to rights of audience and professional discipline."

He adds: "If these proposals become law, they will obviously increase the power of the Government to control the legal profession and, therefore, the judicial process." Under the proposed regime, he says, any professional conduct rule of the Bar that affects advocacy rights may not be changed without the Lord Chancellor's consent and the Lord Chancellor, after consultation, may change those rules without the consent either of the Bar or of the judges.

"I suggest this would seriously undermine the independence of the Bar and could, in the hands of another Lord Chancellor less committed to the independence of the Bar, entirely destroy it."



Lieutenant Kate Cotterill in a blouson while the actress Jemma Redgrave keeps to tradition

Salvation Army puts new styles on parade

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE Salvation Army has introduced blouson jackets and jumpers amid efforts to combat its Victorian image and falling membership.

Epaulettes and badges denoting rank are to go and hats will no longer be compulsory. The changes come after 2,200 members of the public were asked about their perceptions of the Salvation Army. An image of bonnets and brass bands persists.

While the uniforms, plus jumpers or cardigans, will be worn by members on community work, the navy blue suits introduced in the Sixties are being retained for parades for the time being. However, dress for formal occasions is also under review.

The Salvation Army, which was formed in 1865 by William Booth, a Methodist minister, to tackle poverty, introduced its uniform in 1879 to aid "unity and recognition". Until the 1960s women wore fitted jackets, skirts and bonnets and men wore tunics and trousers. These were replaced by a two-piece suit which costs up to £200. Bonnets were replaced by felt hats.

The latest change comes after younger members had begun customising their outfits. The blouson will cost £35.99.

At its peak in 1948, the Salvation Army had 120,000 members but numbers have declined steadily and now stand at 43,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man held over boy's murder

Detectives investigating the murder of the Norfolk schoolboy Thomas Marshall yesterday arrested a local man aged 50. Thomas, 12, went missing from his home in Happisburgh in August 1997 after telling his parents that he was going to meet a friend on his bicycle. His body was found 24 hours later, 50 miles away in a wooded picnic area on the A11 near Thetford. He had been strangled.

Police said that the man being questioned, who has not been named, lived in north Norfolk and was being held at North Walsham police station.

Freedom move

A paedophile won the right in the High Court to challenge the legality of a decision by the North Thames Mental Health Review Tribunal to keep him in hospital. Trevor Holland, 54, is described by the authorities as violent and a risk to society.

Passenger row

A plane carrying 120 holiday-makers from Malaga to Dublin made an unscheduled landing at Bristol after two passengers became unruly. The two, both from Dublin, made their own way home after being arrested and released without charge.

Crash deaths

Sharon Sheehan, 23, and her sister Fiona, 19, died after a lorry and a mini-van carrying special-needs pupils collided in Arklow, Co Wicklow, in the Irish Republic. Jackie Kavanagh, 50, the bus driver, Robert Cullen, 12, and Kevin O'Leary, 11, also died.

Not so noisy

Complaints about noisy neighbours rose only slightly last year after a ten-year run of increasing anger over loud stereos, barking dogs and other nuisances, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health conference in Harrogate was told.

Bittern boost

A scheme to lure the Bittern back to the Norfolk Broads has been given an £80,000 grant by Anglian Water. Only one Bittern call has been heard in the region this year. The money will be used to create reed beds at Strumpshaw Fen near Norwich.

Jail key alert

Locks at Strangeways prison, Manchester, are to be changed after officials realised that a four-year-old information video featured close-ups of keys being used in cell-door locks. There are fears that the video could help anyone trying to make copies.

Action promised over Net racism

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE National Criminal Intelligence Service is to play a central role in efforts to curb the spread of racist and other illegal material on the Internet, Jack Straw has indicated.

The Home Secretary said that the Internet was "vulnerable to abuse because websites and newsgroups are accessible from across international borders". Many of the far right and neo-Nazi websites originate from the United States, Canada, Germany and Scandinavia. The Home Secretary said it was essential that governments co-operated to assist in the removal of illegal material and in the prosecution of its originators.

NCIS, which has been working with other police forces around the world to break up child pornography rings, submitted a report on other illegal uses of the Internet to the Government this year. A spokesman said: "We

have identified racism as a potential problem and made recommendations for a strategy for law enforcement on the Internet. When information is passed to us about material published on the Net, what we can do is identify what jurisdiction it comes from, identify the service provider and alert the relevant authorities."

Addressing the Board of Deputies of British Jews on Monday evening, Mr Straw also said that ministers were monitoring the problem of "Holocaust denial". The Government was reluctant to ban it, he said; there was a need to balance guarding against offence, such as that caused by claims that the Nazi Holocaust did not happen, with free speech. There was a danger that "by introducing legislation, we would play into the hands of those who peddle these lies by giving them a public platform".

Student barristers to give free advice

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

STUDENT barristers are to give members of the public free walk-in legal advice. The clinic will be opened in the autumn by Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former chairman of the Bar.

The idea has been promoted by the College of Law, which runs training courses for the Bar and the Law Society, and also of the Bar Pro Bono Unit, where qualified barristers take on small cases for nothing. The clinic will open initially for one evening a week at the college's premises in Chancery Lane, the heart of London's legal quarter. Students will give people advice on small claims such as those involving personal injury, landlord and tenant disputes, small debtors and disagreements between neighbours.

Suzanne Fine, head of the College of Law's Bar vocational course, said: "The idea is to inculcate in Bar students the importance of giving freely of their time and services."

Students will work under the supervision of Adele Cox, a law lecturer who teaches on the Bar vocational course and who has also experience of running a law centre. A do-it-yourself course for people who want to conduct their cases in the small claims and county courts is to be started this month by the National Council for Access to the Law. If successful, the Bristol Law Society scheme may be developed nationwide.

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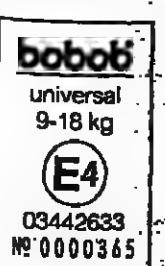
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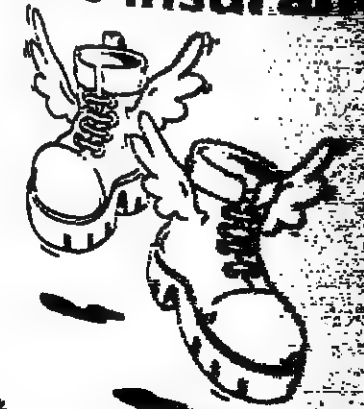
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'Driver fatigue' prompts call for car tachograph

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMPANY car drivers should have their hours at the wheel limited, road safety campaigners said yesterday after the publication of evidence underlining the scale of "driver fatigue".

A new survey shows that one in seven drivers admits to have fallen asleep at the wheel more than ten times in the last year. The research coincides with evidence that up to 900 road deaths a year — one quarter of the total — are a result of motorists falling asleep while driving. The figures are now accepted by government officials as being higher than those caused by drink-driving, which stood at 580 last year.

Road safety campaigners and a leading researcher into the problems of driver fatigue called yesterday on companies to develop tighter controls, including the introduction of tachographs, the devices that are fitted to coaches and lorries to monitor drivers' hours.

Growing evidence of the death toll caused by drowsiness has also prompted the Government to begin its first detailed examination of dashboard warning systems intended to keep drivers awake. It was announced yesterday that studies are to be carried out into some of the leading

systems. These include those that monitor a driver's frequency of blinking and others that sound an alarm if a driver slumps forward in his seat.

Research carried out by Brake, a road safety campaigning organisation, and Essex Police, suggests that two thirds of drivers admit to falling asleep and 15 per cent have done so more than 10 times. The proportion of those dozing off rises among motorists driving for work purposes to 72 per cent and to 82 per cent among lorry drivers.

A conference on driver fatigue was told yesterday that companies are increasingly likely to be prosecuted, possibly for manslaughter, if they have failed to take adequate precautions to protect their staff while at work, which includes driving for business.

Although most prosecutions are made under legislation covering the use of tachographs in lorries and coaches, Mary Williams, executive director of Brake, said: "Health and Safety laws can be used against any employer who fails to protect his staff. Tachographs are now commonplace and employers could certainly use them to protect themselves against prosecution."

There are some 2.2 million company cars in Britain, com-

pared to 400,000 heavy goods vehicles. Manufacturers estimate that tachographs could be fitted to cars for as little as £100.

Lorry drivers are limited to driving 56 hours a week in six days, or four-and-a-half hours at a stretch, but loopholes in the law allow some drivers to stay at the wheel for up to seven hours without a break. The conference was also told that falsified records are common in the haulage industry.

Professor Jim Horne, of the Sleep Research Laboratory at Loughborough University, told yesterday's Wake Up To Fatigue Conference: "More and more people are using their cars as offices and driving huge distances because of the pressure of work." However, he was wary of in-car monitor devices, which he said could encourage drivers to take further risks.

Hospital defends job for Parry

THE hospital that has given a job to Deborah Parry, the nurse accused in Saudi Arabia of murdering a colleague, defended its action yesterday after complaints to the nursing regulatory body.

Holy Cross Hospital at Haslemere, Surrey, said that she had previously worked there from June 1982 to March 1983 and proved to be "capable and caring". Christopher Hinton, the hospital administrator, said: "She made many friends among the staff and this friendship helped to sustain her during the difficult months spent in Saudi Arabia."

Before offering her the post as a registered nurse, which began on September 14, the hospital had double-checked her application with the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting to ensure that she was still registered to practise in Britain, he said.

Ms Parry, 40, who lives with her sister in Alton, Hampshire, is said to be



Deborah Parry yesterday, leaving the Surrey hospital that described her as "capable and caring"

"delighted" by the opportunity to continue her career.

The Central Council said yesterday that it is investigating her case "as a matter of urgency" after receiving three complaints about her conduct. Two were from nurses and one from George Galloway, MP for Glasgow Kelvin, who has

called on the Health Secretary to "forbid this grisly appointment".

It is grotesque that a woman who was convicted of killing a nursing colleague in the most brutal of circumstances should be nursing again," he said. "I wouldn't like any of my relatives treated to her tender loving

care." Ms Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, 32, were freed in an act of mercy by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia after being held for the murder of Miss Gilford, 55, in Dhahran hospital in December 1996. They deny the killing and say that confessions were forced out of them.

The Central Council said

that it could not proceed with its investigation because the Saudi authorities would not provide evidence of a murder conviction or evidence to back up the charge, as required by the council's disciplinary system. It was taking legal advice on how to proceed and was anxious to hold an impartial hearing.

Drink-drive man wins back licence

A BUSINESSMAN has had a drink-drive ban quashed because he did not realise he was breaking the law by driving home on farm tracks while over the alcohol limit.

Cyril Stammers, 56, thought he was allowed to drive his Range Rover back from the local public house by avoiding public roads and going on bridleways and footpaths. But police lying in wait, who breathalysed him halfway through his three-mile cross-country journey home from the The Plough at Sutton, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, found he was slightly over the limit.

Stammers, managing director of a gardening and landscaping firm, admitted drink-driving at Deben magistrates court on August 28. He was banned from driving for 12 months, fined £600 and ordered to pay £40 costs.

But Stammers, of Hollesley near Woodbridge, had the

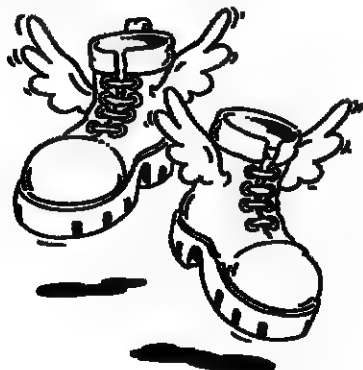


Stammers: drove home along a farm track

ban lifted when he appealed against his sentence at Ipswich Crown Court on Monday. Judge John Holt agreed that his excuse about not knowing that drink-drive laws applied to footpaths was a special reason for him to keep his licence.

Stammers will still have to pay his fine and costs.

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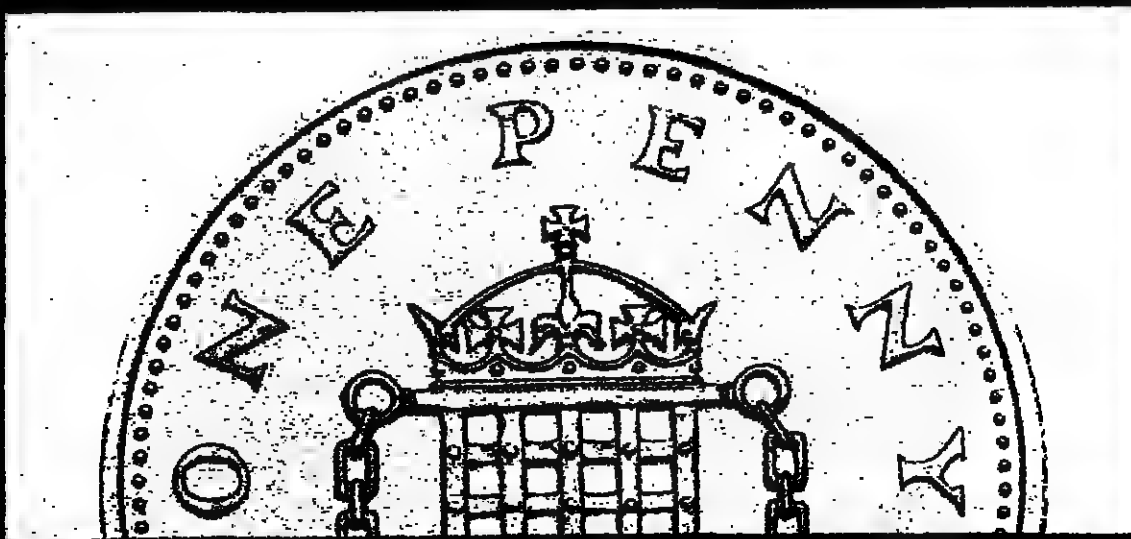
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2015/09/16

Blair heralds fight against urban squalor

Alexandra Frean on the Government's plans to spend £800m on improving the worst housing estates

REGENERATING the country's most squalid, deprived and run-down housing estate could take 20 years, Tony Blair said yesterday.

Announcing an £800 million package of reforms designed to involve local people in urban renewal projects, the Prime Minister said that bridging the gap between the poorest neighbourhoods and the rest of Britain was a priority.

No civilised society should tolerate a social division which deprives millions of children of hope and opportunity. The poverty and fear in some communities "shames us as a nation", he said.

The bleak picture was painted in *Bringing Britain Together: A National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*. The Social Exclusion Unit report identifies 4,000 estates and 44 districts suffering from the high concentrations of deprivation.

While the poorest people are becoming increasingly concentrated in small areas, some of the most deprived neighbourhoods lie only a mile or two from prosperous city centres where employers find it hard to fill vacancies.

Mr Blair launched the report at the Holly Street Estate in Hackney, near his former home of Islington. Although a £97 million regeneration project has helped to replace

the estate's crumbling tower blocks with two-storey housing, open walkways and community facilities, the Prime Minister said that throwing money at the problem was not the solution. The key was fostering partnerships between local people and the providers of housing and other services.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that £12 million would be available this year to kick off the £800 million programme, known as the New Deal for Communities. The transformation will begin with initiatives such as "neighbourhood wardens" to help

residents, and for "super-caretakers" on estates to carry out immediate repairs.

There should also be better financial services, possibly through the creation of local credit unions and the opening of more bank and Post Office branches. Supermarket chains are to be asked to supply corner shops with own-brand goods. Other proposals are for the provision of better arts and sports facilities, designed in consultation with the people who are to use them.

The first of the money will be spread between 17 deprived

neighbourhoods across England: in Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Leicester, Birmingham, Sandwell in the West Midlands, Kingston upon Hull, Brighton and Hove, Bradford, Norwich and Bristol as well as Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Southwark in London. More areas will be able to bid for funding in later years.

Partnerships involving community groups, public agencies, local authorities and businesses will be invited to submit bids by December 14. Ideally, proposed schemes would involve the long-term regeneration of 1,000 to 4,000 households. Money will be made available to successful bidders to develop their plans between January and June 1999. Funding for projects lasting up to ten years will then be available from July 1999.

Under the proposals, 18 action teams involving ten Whitehall departments and outside experts will be working in five main areas: getting people to work; getting places to work; dealing with issues like housing management and anti-social behaviour; building a future for young people; access to

services, such as banks and shops, and making the Government work better.

A key to the plan's success will be the ability of the Government to dovetail its initiatives into other, separate programmes targeted at schools, crime and health, and to make sure there is no overlap or confusion between projects put into operation under different headings.

The Child Poverty Action Group warned the Government that most of the proposals were aimed at tackling the symptoms rather than the causes of deprivation and social exclusion.

Leading article, page 17

Estate where hope walked out and gangs moved in

By Russell Jenkins

SKID marks trace where joyriders have driven over pavements and derelict land to escape police; scorch marks on nearby boarded-up derelict houses reveal what happened to the cars.

Sheffield Close, Beswick, in inner-city Manchester, is a slum by day and after dark, when the car gangs take over, becomes a no-go zone where the few remaining residents retreat behind double-bolted doors.

The Beswick Two-cars, named after the charge to "take without consent", like to "rally" their stolen cars in the car park behind Beswick Evangelical Church, now boarded up, covered in graffiti, swathed in barbed wire and awaiting demolition.

Huge gaps in the wooden fences of the modern low-rise terrace houses are evidence, say frightened residents, of previous police chases. But the gangs are only one problem in an area beset by all the inner-city ailments from joblessness to drug-related crime.

Chief among them is the inextinguishable nature of social deprivation. Those who can have moved from the neighbourhood surrounding Sheffield Close, leaving homes sealed by metal shutters. Nobody wants to move into an area so obviously blighted.

Planners flattened the unloved blocks of flats in Ardwick and Beswick a decade ago but, in their wake, shopkeepers were forced to move out because of lack of trade.

Beswick shopping centre, in the shadow of Greymare Lane police station, once boasted a Co-op, a jeweller and a bank. Now it houses a 24-hour solicitor, a probation office, a Citizens Advice Bureau, a Kwik-Save and a branch of the social services.

It was at Beswick that the authors of the social exclusion report came to research the problems of abandonment and antisocial behaviour.

Manchester City Council is pinpointing pockets of intense deprivation in east Manchester, including Beswick, Openshaw and Clayton, for urban regeneration initiatives costing between £20 million and £50 million under the New Deal for Communities programme, announced by the Government yesterday. In the



Boarded-up houses at Beswick, Manchester. A resident says concrete panels in the estate's homes are rotting away and sinking into the mud

short-term, this is likely to mean demolition for unlettable and decaying housing stock and improvements for what remains rather than wholesale rebuilding.

More importantly, say the council, is the partnership to be forged with residents on projects to lift the blight, whether attracting jobs, protecting homes and businesses,

improving health or generally encouraging life back into the urban centres.

Sean McGonigle, principal strategy officer for Manchester Housing, said: "The answer is to provide a holistic approach to tackle the problems of the area. We have to look at the whole range of issues to improve the health of the area." They have a tough

job. Beswick has been blighted since heavy industries closed or moved out long ago. Manchester City Council is hopeful that the £100 million project to build a stadium for the Commonwealth Games and sports village, on the Eastlands site, less than a quarter of a mile away, will be a powerful engine for change.

Mr McGonigle insisted that many parts of east Manchester host thriving communities. But some estates have a 100 per cent turnover in tenants each year and that is unsustainable, he says.

Manchester has a good track record. The city council has brought new life to North Hulme and Moss Side, once the epicentre of "Gungechester".

It has overseen the renaissance of the Castlefield area, with well-appointed flats and restaurants for the middle class.

Julie Monash, 41, a Beswick resident, said: "The houses should be pulled down because there are always problems. The concrete panels are rotting away and sinking into the mud."

"Everyone who was in my class has babies. I'm the only one who hasn't. I feel very left out. Only one is in a stable relationship and none are married."

"More than anything we need to make our schools as good as yours."

"I can't invite people to my house because if they leave at 10pm, I might not see them again."

LIFE ON THE FRONT LINE

COMMENTS made to researchers from the Social Exclusion Unit as they visited poor areas show what life is like on the estates:

"Sometimes I feel sorry for [kids] when I see one of them carrying his Mum home from the pub. His Dad's still in the pub. You see a little boy of 4 out at 10pm shouting by himself."

"There are needles and rubbish and joints everywhere. There are kids smoking and drinking, running on the roof. They say there are \$100 rats under our flats."

"People are frightened to help each other or get involved for fear of reprisals. I want to be invisible because that feels safer than challenging people."

"Seven and eight-year-olds, sleeping out all night with cans of lager is common. They light a fire under the bridge and sniff gas. There is loads of glue-sniffing round here. The police just haven't got time for people like us."

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Lottery will pay for entrance to top public school

AN EXTENSIVE renovation programme at Stowe School was boosted yesterday by one of the largest grants ever made to an historic house.

The £4.9 million from the Heritage Lottery fund will go to a newly formed Stowe House Preservation Trust charged with carrying out a £25 million restoration programme. The scheme will greatly increase public access to both the house and landscape gardens, which the Government is seeking to have designated as a World Heritage Site.

Work will concentrate on Stowe's magnificent 200-yard north front, which 18th-century owners steadily enlarged with the help of Vanburgh, Kent and Leoni. Stowe House was completed in about 1770 and became a school in 1923, since when more buildings have been added.

Peter Inskip, the architect in charge, said: "The condition is terrible. It's not only a problem with the local Helmsdon limestone, which turns to clay, but with cement render applied in the 1920s, which has caused actual structural failure because it behaves differently from the brick cores of the columns within."

Lord Temple used plaster render to conceal the many different periods of building in the north front. In a letter to

A £4.9m grant will help to restore Stowe's palatial front, writes Marcus Binney

Lady Chatham in 1771, he wrote: "My stucco columns gave immortal fame superior to my stone and yet I am fool enough to give way to prejudice and use stone most liberally on the south side." By re-using lime renders similar to those used by Lord Temple, Mr Inskip hopes to restore Stowe's palatial entrance front and colonnades, now a dingy grey, to their original sparkling white.

He said: "Great historic houses have to be re-roofed about every 100 years and Stowe's was last done in 1860. Our philosophy will be to do all that is necessary — but as little as possible."

In recent years, the National Trust has taken over Stowe's landscape gardens and restored many of its famous temples. Now the house is also

to be open 100 days a year and will form the main approach to the gardens. Visitors will enter through the great hall and the spectacular domed saloon to enjoy the panorama from the great south portico across the lake to the magnificent triumphal arch set on the skyline nearly a mile away.

The school will pay a market rent to the new trust for the space it occupies. The trust's Rupert Litherland says: "School meal times will be adjusted to allow visitors to see the dining room and other state rooms now used for recitals and debates."

Stowe's headmaster will move out of the handsome Gothic library designed by Sir John Soane to make way for visitors. A little-used porte cochere, or carriage entrance, introduced under the steps of the entrance portico, will serve again as a winter entrance opening into the Egyptian hall and providing access for the disabled.

The contents of Stowe were finally dispersed in one of the greatest country house sales, with 3,955 lots over 19 days in 1921. Acquisition by the school saved the house from the prospect of ruin or even demolition.

The lottery grant brings new hope for a series of other great houses that are outstanding architecturally but



The crumbling columns at Stowe School. The lottery money will go towards restoration and increasing public access to the house and grounds

have lost their contents or become institutions or simply been left empty. These include Pugin's Scarisbrick in Lancashire, Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire, Kinmel in North Wales and Tynmouth Castle in Scotland.

The lottery fund has also given a further £1 million to the National Trust for the restoration of two monuments in the park at Stowe. These are the obelisk by Sir John Vanburgh — used as target practice by troops in Second World War — and the Gothic umbrella. The park will be open 365 days a year free of charge.

Lutyens' sketches to be displayed

By MARK HENDERSON

THE papers and sketchbooks of the architect Sir Edward Lutyens are to be acquired for the nation with a £242,800 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The money, awarded yesterday, will enable the Royal Institute of British Architects to buy thousands of letters and sketches, all of which will be put on public display.

The fund handed out more than £37 million to 128

projects across Britain. The largest award, £9.9 million, went to the Horniman Museum of ethnography, natural history and musical instruments in Lewisham, South London, to improve its galleries, demolish unsightly modern buildings at the site, and build a new extension. There will be more exhibition space, better public facilities and a conservation studio.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum in Caernarfon, North Wales, will receive £1.1 million to develop the permanent exhibit in the World Heritage Site at Caernarfon Castle into a full museum housed in the Queen's Tower and Chamberlain Tower.

St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, which was designed

by Sir George Gilbert Scott, a contemporary of Lutyens, will receive £586,000. The money will be used for a three-year programme of conservation and restoration work.

A five-year restoration programme for 41 nature reserves in Worcestershire has also benefited in the latest round of grants, with £884,750 being awarded to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Churches and places of worship share £7.9 million among 60 projects, with the largest grant of £2 million going to the Whithy centre. The latest grants bring to £1.1 billion the total awarded by the fund, now supporting 2,119 projects around the country.

Anthea Case, fund director, said: "This round of grants



Lutyens' papers are saved for the nation

includes some important major awards, together with many smaller ones. The combined effect is designed to spread the benefits of our funding all over the UK."

£5m will help restore abbey's lost garden

By PAUL WILKINSON

GRANTS of £5 million were awarded yesterday for restoration and research at Whithy Abbey, one of the most spectacular historic sites in the country.

Already preliminary work on the construction of a visitor centre for the 120,000 people a year who come to the cliff-top ruins perched between the North Sea and the North York Moors has unearthed a lost treasure. Buried beneath an acre of paddock archaeologists have found a 17th-century stone garden, created by the descendants of the Cholmley family who bought the abbey after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

"Given the blasted location of the site, facing north, several hundred feet above sea-level, little would probably grow in a garden up here," Ed Bell, a projects manager with English Heritage, said. "We know of nothing else like this."

The garden is a vast paving of large cobbles, probably taken from the nearby beach, and laid out in geometric

patterns across an inner and outer courtyard which fronted a magnificent two-storey classical style house built by the Cholmleys in 1672.

In the centre of the inner court was a large feature, possibly a fountain or statue and spaced around it are holes, possibly the base of statues or small beds for seasonal plantings. "They could possibly have brought out trees or plants in containers and spaced them around the courtyard as they wished," Mr Bell said.

"The original plans show two formal areas, but give no clues as to what was here. We had no idea until late last year when we put in an exploratory trench and kept on finding cobbles."

The stone garden will now be restored and form a feature of the visitor centre, which is being created inside the roofless shell of the old house with the aid of the grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and Scarborough

Borough Council. Present-day visitors hardly cast a glance at the house, which lies behind high stone walls and is sandwiched between St Mary's churchyard, made famous by Bram Stoker as a stalking-ground for Dracula, and the medieval ruins of the abbey founded by St Hilda in 657.

The house was built as a grand extension to the family home, Abbey House, which had originally been the abbot's lodgings. But in the Great Wind of 1790, its timber roof was dislodged. The wing was subsequently abandoned and in the 1920s, when the family moved out and the house was turned into a hotel, it was handed over to the abbey to the Government.

The grants will be used to re-roof the building and construct display areas, a shop and other attractions. They are scheduled to open in 2000. The money will also be used to research areas now used as car parking in an attempt to find out more about the abbey's Anglo-Saxon origins.



Work begins on restoring the 17th-century stone garden discovered at Whithy Abbey

Railtrack heaps up trouble

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

PROTESTERS are hoping that John Prescott will intervene to curb plans by Railtrack to pile up ballast stockpiles the height of houses around the country.

A public outcry in Oxford, where Railtrack plans to build one of 13 such stockpiles, could halt the scheme, which is part of a £1 billion investment in infrastructure. Railtrack does not require planning permission under a 1995 planning order.

However, Oxfordshire planners meet on Friday to

decide whether to issue an Article 4 direction preventing Railtrack from storing 200,000 tonnes of ballast for track maintenance on green belt land near houses.

Such a direction would need the consent of the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions. It would force Railtrack to apply for planning permission in the normal way but it could also result in the council having to compensate the company.

More than 100 people have

written to Oxfordshire County Council to protest about the proposed storage yard, which would contain a pile of stone 340 metres long, 15 metres wide and 4.5 metres high. About 250 people attended a public meeting called by Railtrack.

Dr Alastair Rogers, chairman of Hinkley Park Residents Association, said it was hard to see how Railtrack could have chosen a worse site. However, Railtrack says that the site offers good connections on the network.

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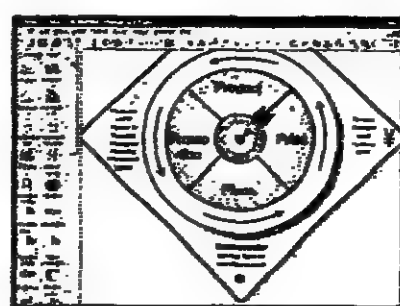
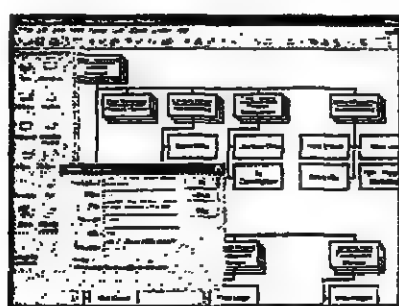
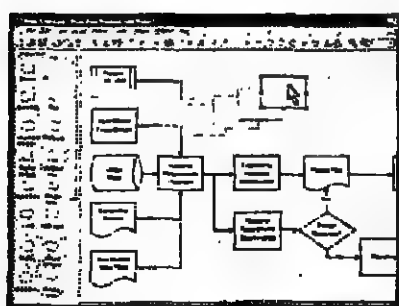
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Demo leader calls for straight talking

FROM LEX BRIDGES IN

THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY (DUP) leader, Ian Paisley, has called for a "straight talking" approach to the Northern Ireland peace process. He said that the current negotiations were "too slow" and that there needed to be a more direct approach to resolving the conflict.

PAISLEY, who is a member of the DUP's executive committee, said that the current negotiations were "too slow" and that there needed to be a more direct approach to resolving the conflict.

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CLINTON SCANDAL

Democrat leaders call for straight talking

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

VIDEOTAPE of President Clinton's grand jury testimony could soon be made public despite the objections of his fellow Democrats.

At the same time, the two most senior Democrats on Capitol Hill bluntly called on the White House to abandon its hair-splitting strategy of insisting that Mr Clinton did not lie when he denied having sex with Monica Lewinsky.

TAPE DISPUTE

Members of the House Judiciary Committee were to meet today or tomorrow to decide when and how to issue the remaining 2,000-plus pages of material and the videotape sent to Congress with his report on the affair by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

Republicans are eager to expedite release of the material. Under a resolution approved by the House last week, committee members must decide how much to make public by Monday week. But a committee staff member indicated that much of it may be released well before then.

The 17 boxes of documents are still under guard, but Charles Canady, a Republican congressman who has made a preliminary examination, said he doubted that they contained any shocking revelations not already covered in the report.

Democrats are eager to keep the videotape secret because the President's testimony, taken on August 17, deteriorated into heated exchanges with Mr Starr's prosecutors. Finally, Mr Clinton refused to answer some questions about his sexual liaisons with Ms Lewinsky.

Publishing the text of these exchanges would be bad enough, Democrats argue, but the impact of showing them on every television channel could deliver yet another wallop to the party's already battered

prospects in the November congressional elections.

Richard Gephardt, Democratic leader in the House, took precise aim at the perilous White House legal strategy of admitting to sins but not lies by Mr Clinton. Calling for common sense, he said: "The considered judgment of the American people is not going to rise or fall on the fine distinctions of a legal argument, but on straight talk and the truth."

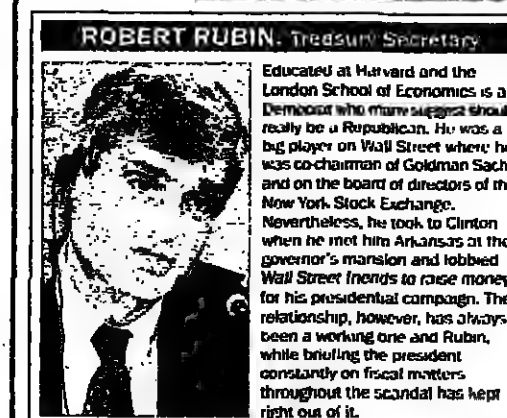
His remarks were echoed by Thomas Daschle, Democratic leader in the Senate, who said: "The President and his advisers must accept that continued legal jousting serves no constructive purpose."

The White House seemed to agree, saying in a statement that the President did not want the work of his lawyers to get in the way of his admissions of improper relations and that he had misled people. The statement did not indicate any change in the Clinton defence, but several legal heavyweights in Washington have reportedly been implored to join the President's damage-control efforts.

The argument hinges on the insistence of Mr Clinton's lawyers, even while he utters broad confessions of wrongdoing and says "legal language must not obscure the fact that I have done wrong", that he did not commit perjury.

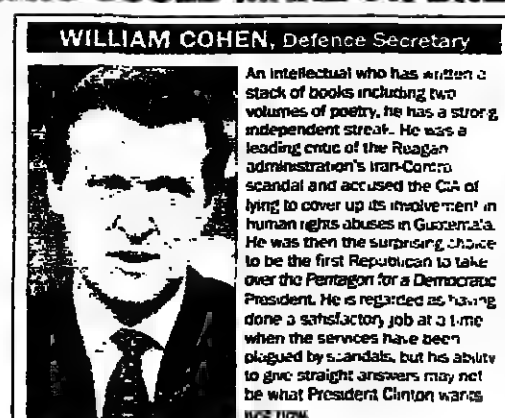
The problem goes back to Mr Clinton's deposition last January in which he denied having "sexual relations" with Ms Lewinsky, claiming that oral sex was not covered under a definition of sex presented by lawyers for Paula Jones. David Kendall, the President's leading private lawyer, admitted on television to legal contortions when he said Mr Clinton had answered the deposition questions "narrowly but truthfully". In an astonishing burst of candour, he added: "There is no perjury there. Was he trying to mislead the Paula Jones lawyers? Absolutely."

LEADING ALLIES WHO COULD MAKE OR BREAK THE PRESIDENT



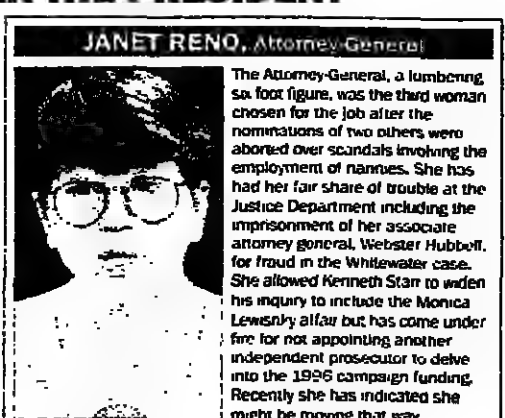
ROBERT RUBIN, Treasury Secretary

Educated at Harvard and the London School of Economics, a Democrat who more suggests should really be a Republican. He was a big player on Wall Street where he was co-chairman of Goldman Sachs and on the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, he took to Clinton when he met him in Arkansas at the governor's mansion and lobbied Wall Street to raise money for his presidential campaign. The relationship, however, has always been a working one and Rubin, while briefing the president constantly on fiscal matters, throughout the scandal has kept right out of it.



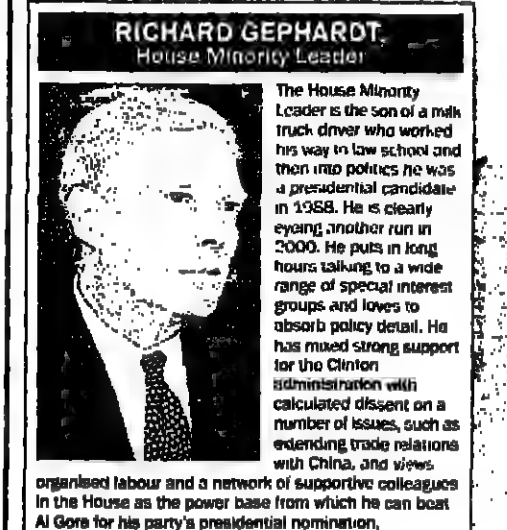
WILLIAM COHEN, Defence Secretary

An intellectual who has written a stack of books including two volumes of poetry, he has a strong independent streak. He was a leading critic of the Reagan administration's Iran-Contra scandal and accused the CIA of lying to cover up its involvement in human rights abuses in Guatemala. He was then the surprising choice to be the first Republican to take over the Pentagon for a Democratic President. He is regarded as having done a satisfactory job at a time when the services have been plagued by scandals, but his ability to give straight answers may not be what President Clinton wants.



JANET RENO, Attorney General

The Attorney General, a lumbering 5ft 10in figure, was the third woman chosen for the job after the nominations of two others were aborted over scandals involving the employment of nannies. She has had her fair share of trouble at the Justice Department including the imprisonment of her associate attorney general, Webster Hubbell, for fraud in the Whitewater case. She allowed Kenneth Starr to widen his inquiry to include the Monica Lewinsky affair but has come under fire for not appointing another independent prosecutor to delve into the 1996 campaign funding. Recently she has indicated she might be moving that way.



RICHARD GEPHARDT, House Minority Leader

The House Minority Leader is the son of a milk truck driver who worked his way in law school and then into politics. He was a presidential candidate in 1996. He is clearly going to run in 2000. He puts in long hours talking to a wide range of special interest groups and loves to discuss policy detail. He has moved strong support for the Clinton administration with a number of issues, such as extending trade relations with China, and views organized labour and a network of supportive colleagues in the House as the power base from which he can boost Al Gore for his party's presidential nomination.



THOMAS DASCHLE, Senate Minority Leader

The Senate Minority Leader is a prairie populist who lights hard for his farmer's concerns about subsidies and agricultural policy but showed he was politically shrewd and well respected enough among the more old heads of the Senate to become his party's leader there in 1995 when he was a relatively youthful 47. He has a soft-spoken style which is equally effective both on television and when he sets off in a checked shirt on long treks across his home state of South Dakota listening to the parochial worries of the people he is relying on to re-elect him this year with another resounding majority.

Evangelists join White House ranks

IN HIS search for redemption, President Clinton has turned to two evangelical preachers — one of whom had an extramarital affair — to join him in weekly prayers and aid in resisting temptation.

He called on the ministers to be his spiritual advisers a few days before the release of the Starr report, with its graphic details of Mr Clinton's sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky.

Such informal groups of spiritual advisers are commonplace among evangelical Christians. They are sometimes called "accountability circles", offering support for those facing personal crises.

The White House confirmed yesterday that the ministers are the Rev Tony Campolo, a liberal Baptist known for his controversial beliefs advocating Christian acceptance of homosexuality, and the Rev Gordon MacDonald, pastor of a nondenominational Christian church, Grace Chapel, in Lexington, Massachusetts. A third minister who is helping Mr Clinton has not been identified.

Since admitting his "inappropriate" relationship with Ms Lewinsky a month ago, Mr Clinton has tried to convince Americans that he is truly repentant. At a prayer breakfast last Friday he delivered an extensive apology and admitted: "I have sinned."

The evening before, Mr MacDonald

'Sinner' Bill hopes that his prayers will lead to political resurrection, writes Ian Brodie

had spent several hours talking to the President and Hillary Clinton in the White House family quarters before staying overnight in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Mr MacDonald admitted to an extramarital affair 12 years ago and embarked on his own quest for redemption from sin. He resigned as president of a missionary agency and left the ministry. He returned after two years and later wrote a book about his experience, *Rebuilding Your Broken*

World. Mr Clinton said he had read the book twice and it was one reason he had turned to Mr MacDonald for spiritual guidance. In his sermon last Sunday, Mr MacDonald declared: "I bring an understanding of what it is like to face the public scrutiny when one has sinned."

He continued: "I have gone through, and continue to go through, the breaking process. I have known both the remarkable grace of forgiving, restorative people, and the lack of those who choose other options. I am

in a position to talk the language of repentance and what it takes to find a deeper and more purposeful walk with God in the midst of a personal tragedy."

The second minister, Mr Campolo, described Mr Clinton as a "fallen brother". He bluntly addressed the issue of whether the President had turned to the pair because a show of repentance would help his political damage control.

"There are those who will say that

do our best to help as he searches his heart and soul. We want him to understand what went wrong with him personally that led to the tragic sins that have so marred his life and the office of the Presidency."

"We want to provide all the help that we can to spiritually strengthen him against yielding to the temptations that have conquered him the past."

Mr Clinton admitted to "hundreds" of affairs before his 40th birthday but had been trying to bring his sexual impulses under control for the past 12 years, according to Ms Lewinsky's account in the Starr report.

Earlier, the Clintons had turned for help to the Rev Jesse Jackson, but Mrs Clinton was said to have been irritated when he publicly described her as feeling humiliated.

Mr Campolo is a minister with American Baptist Churches USA. Both he and Mr MacDonald have been acquainted with Mr Clinton for the past five years.

They both insist they are concerned only with his spiritual and not political redemption. Mr Campolo teaches sociology at Eastern College, a small campus in St David, Pennsylvania.

Several prominent religious critics have called on Mr Clinton to resign, including Paige Patterson, head of the Southern Baptists, the President's denomination.

Five big hitters will seal fate of leader

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THEY are the "big five", the equivalent of the men in grey suits who told Margaret Thatcher to go. As the Republicans make a great show of being statesmanlike, President Clinton's fate could be sealed if the heavy hitters on his own team decide he is no longer match-fit.

Much will depend on how the President conducts himself in the short term. This is particularly important for two of the five: Richard Gephardt, the House Minority Leader, and Thomas Daschle, the Senate Minority Leader. They have a close working relationship and co-ordinated their statements giving a warning that Mr Clinton's legal antics after the release of the Starr report were unacceptable.

The power of these two is

POWER POLITICS

probably matched only by that of a triumvirate of Mr Clinton's Cabinet members: Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary; William Cohen, the Defence Secretary; and Janet Reno, the Attorney General.

Mr Rubin has never been an FOB — Friend of Bill — but he is highly regarded by all in Washington for his probity and stewardship of the economy. He has had a good working relationship with Mr Clinton but has remained silent on the Lewinsky affair.

Mr Cohen, too, has been reticent about the Starr report. Asked this week if he still had confidence in the President, he replied curtly: "I believe the President is capable of carrying out his responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief, yes." He is coming under increasing pressure from the armed forces who do not agree. They argue that if the President were in uniform he would have been up in front of a court martial and fired long ago.

Janet Reno has defended the President, albeit somewhat tepidly, but some day soon she may approach him and quietly deliver the final blow.

It is likely that she will appoint another special prosecutor to investigate allegations of illegal fundraising by the Clinton/Gore campaign of 1996.

Hillary 'has hidden fears' about Starr

BY IAN BRODIE



Mondale: terse statement on White House visit

HILLARY CLINTON has reason to fear parts of the Starr report that did not deal with her husband's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, a report said yesterday.

They focused on other phases of Kenneth Starr's investigation, which the independent prosecutor said were nearing completion. They include a property project in Arkansas known as Castle Grande, for which Mrs Clinton did the legal work when she worked for the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock.

The report in the *New York Post* was written by Dick Morris, who was forced to resign as a political adviser to President Clinton after cavorting with a prostitute in a hotel near the White House.

NEXT IN LINE

"One big reason Hillary is so vocal in defending her husband and attacking Starr is that she is likely to be next on the griddle," Mr Morris wrote.

If she is indicted, he continued, it was his bet that she would want to fight the case in court. She would not let her reputation be destroyed without a vigorous defence.

But Mr Morris also postulated this intriguing thought: "If she is facing a conviction and the President is facing impeachment, and everything is going to hell, don't rule out the possibility that he might pardon her and then resign, knowing the jig is up." In short, Mr Clinton would give up his presidency to save his

wife from prison, said Mr Morris, who has known the Clintons for nearly 20 years.

Mr Starr is appealing against dismissal of an indictment for tax evasion against Webster Hubbell, who was paid \$500,000 (£300,000) by friends of the President before going to prison for fraud.

Mr Starr said he was inquiring whether there was a connection between these "consultation payments" and Mr Hubbell's "incomplete testimony". In other words, was it hush money to conceal information about Castle Grande and other potentially incriminating deals?

The complex Castle Grande transaction allegedly involved a sham sale of land to Mr Hubbell's father-in-law. A front man was needed because Madison Guaranty,

the Whitewater bank, would have exceeded the proportion of its assets it was allowed to invest in property.

Mr Starr must decide if Mrs Clinton's legal work on the deal was merely routine, or if she was aware of the deception? Her billing records from the transaction were missing for two years until they mysteriously appeared in the family quarters of the White House.

Visit explained: Eleanor Mondale, a television presenter and daughter of Walter Mondale, the former Vice President, has issued a terse statement explaining a visit to the Oval Office that earned her a cameo role in the Starr report (Damian Whitworth writes). She said speculation of romance between her and Mr Clinton was "baseless".

Next morning a guard heard "a loud sighing from within the cell" and found him on the floor. He was pronounced dead at a hospital. The Federal Bureau of Prisons said McDougal received "timely, appropriate and professional care".

McDougal, who was jailed for unrelated fraud charges, had broken his allegiance to the Clintons and been in discussions with Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over the failed Whitewater enterprise.



McDougal: died in jail

James McDougal, President and Hillary Clinton's former partner in the Whitewater land speculation, complained of feeling ill hours before he suffered a fatal heart attack in a prison cell but was not seen by a doctor, a government report has disclosed.

McDougal, 57, was put into solitary confinement — where he had no access to his heart pills — for failing to provide a urine sample. He had complained of dizziness after five hours of trying to provide the sample for guards, according to the report on his death. He had said earlier he was unable to provide urine for drug tests because of his variety of medication.

The report was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the *Star-Telegram* in Fort Worth, Texas, where McDougal — a self-confessed rogue — died in March.

The disputed circumstances of his death are bound to provide fodder for conspiracy theorists who question many

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'You're something, hon, but it's not pregnant'

TUESDAY: I am more than a fortnight late now, but the test is negative. There is no pink line on the test stick but I am sure I am pregnant. I haven't done it wrong, either. Over the past few years I have done enough of these things to know exactly how to use them; how to pee without splashing on the tester stick and precisely how long to wait before looking for the tell-tale sign.

Sometimes, depending on the test, they use a red tick to indicate you're pregnant and sometimes a blue cross. With this one, a positive result is indicated by two pink lines. But there is only one. The other box remains clear, white and unambiguous. I am not pregnant.

On the back of the packet it proclaims the "Answer" test is so sensitive that it can detect pregnancy within 24 hours of an overdue period. On the front it claims to be "America's No 1 Test", so I think perhaps it is past its sell-by date. I didn't much trust the pharmacist who sold it to me either; he looked shifty and I had to wait for ages while in front of me a tall, balding man in a brown jacket was interrogating him about Viagra, Pfizer's new wonderdrug to overcome "erectile dysfunction".

"Each tablet is ten bucks" the man was exclaiming, alarmed. "Ten bucks?" "And it's only available on prescription," the pharmacist replied. "Oh, but it's for not for



Joanna Fabone
NEW YORK LIFE

me," the man explained hastily. "It's for my friend, in Brazil. Please, he can't get it there."

I wander over to Peter's writing-desk, tucked under the window in our Greenwich Village loft, and announce: "I'm not pregnant." "What do you mean?" he asks, hunched over his Powerbook, without looking up.

THURSDAY: I can't face the uncertainty of another home-test, so I am sitting in the offices of a gynaecologist in Murray Hill, a drab area on the fringes of midtown. I am 36 and this is the first time I have ever visited a gynaecologist.

At home in England I relied on the GP for everything, but in Manhattan everyone has a doctor for each separate part of the body. Americans recommend them to each other as a sign of trust and friendship, like hot stock market tips. My friend Kelly, who appears to be in rude health, has a gynaecologist, a podiatrist, a dermatologist, a neurologist and an orthopaedologist. She recommends her family doctor because he once allowed her to "self-prescribe" Prozac over the phone. "I self-diagnosed depression, I gave him my symptoms and he agreed with me," she tells me. "So I had a courier pick the prescription up."

I imagine how Dr O'Reilly, my doctor in Notting Hill and a laconic Irish woman whose sole driving force seemed to come from resisting local pressure to become a GP fundholder, would have reacted if I'd phoned up and "self-prescribed" Prozac.

The surgery is far smarter than anything I've encountered in Britain. With soft, black leather seating and the latest editions of *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *National Geographic* and *Time*, the reception is more like a discreet hotel lobby. The walls are a gentle green, decorated with rousing scenes of thundering waterfalls, dancing cornfields and - proud, snowy peaks from Yosemite. Underneath each one is a motivational phrase: "A bend in the road is not the end of the road, unless you fail to make the turn".

Some people dream of success. Others wake up and work hard at it.

Indeed, there is nothing to suggest I am in a doctor's waiting room at all, until I notice a plastic box of leaflets dispensing advice on genital herpes. "Genital herpes affects more than one in six American adults. Avoid it. There is NO Cure!"

"Ms Cole?" A receptionist beckons with a silver-polished nail so long it has curled round on itself like a miniature dough-hook.

"Your insurance?" I hand over the blue plastic card which, alongside my social security and credit cards, I have learnt to my 15 months of living here to carry at all times in case of emergency. A directory of forms is pushed at me requiring my entire medical history and that of my immediate family, plus another sheet demanding I take full financial responsibility should, for any reason, my insurance not pay up. I have no option

but to sign and am led into another office by a doctor wearing a name-badge claiming she is called Beth and whose impressively-framed certificates jostle for wall space with more motivational images of Yosemite.

"So, Joanna, I'm Beth. Welcome to our practice! This is your first visit?"

"Yes." "Tell me, how did you hear about us?" "My family doctor Leah Fabone recommended you." "Oh, Leah?" cries Beth. "Leah Fabone? A fabulous lady and a fabulous doctor!" She gives us lots of referrals and we pride ourselves on giving you, the customer, our best service. We're a 24-hour service, and before you leave today our receptionist, Betsy, will give you all the appropriate numbers. Now, what can I do you for today?

"I think I'm pregnant," I say. "My period is 14 days late, which is unusual. I've done a test at home which was negative, but I'm fairly sure I'm pregnant anyway." She looks doubtful. "How old are you?" "Thirty-six." She takes a quick intake of breath, then shakes her head. "Thirty-six? The female body starts winding down, hon. Those shop-tests are pretty reliable. I'll give you a blood test, but I tell you what I'm gonna do,"

and she delivers a brisk monologue with enough force to launch the space shuttle.

"I'm gonna give you Provera, which will bring on your period, but don't take it until we have the results of your blood tests, okay? If it's positive, then I can recommend a very good obstetrician. If it's negative, then it's probably your system adjusting itself to being 36. I'm sorry, but that's the way the cookie crumbles, okay? Call me tomorrow and I'll give you the results."

I am ushered down the corridor into the care of Donna, the technician, who snaps on tight rubber gloves and grins. "You do look a little peaky," she observes, extracting blood with one hand and deftly unpeeling a Band Aid with the other. "I'll keep my fingers crossed for ya."

FRIDAY: At the appointed hour I try to call Beth, but am obstructed from reaching her by the surgery's tortuous telephonic maze. Just as I'm wondering whether to go and pick up the results in person, she calls me. "Joanna, it's Beth. Not good news, I'm afraid. To be honest, hon, I don't know what's going on. You're certainly something, but it's not pregnant. Can you come back?" "Is it urgent?" I ask, conscious I have an interview to write up. "How can I put this, hon? Can you come back as soon as possible, like this afternoon?"

Here, they have a doctor for every part of the body

My land of stolen childhood

Mary McAleese tells Noreen Taylor how she has become a symbol for Ireland's hopes

From within the large, formal drawing-room of the stately 17th-century house, a frisson of anticipation among the staff heralds the arrival of a tall, slim figure, expertly groomed, and fetchingly dressed in a pale blue suit.

"The President," announces a protocol officer, as Mary McAleese, the eighth President of Ireland, smiles, shakes hands, and asks for water in preference to the tea and coffee laid on a silver tray.

"I'm ready when you are," she says, settling into a chintz armchair and pointing to the sheet of questions she has agreed in advance to answer in her first interview for a British paper since her inauguration last year.

Her first official visit to London begins tomorrow, after a successful tour of the Irish diaspora in Australia and New Zealand. That trip is the reason for various Antipodean television crews snaking their cables across the hand-woven Donegal carpets which cover

gilded rooco corridors and rooms.

I was already aware that her demeanour - polite, cool, to the point - is a convenient cloak worn while performing the role of head of state, and that she is also notably chilly in press encounters. With family and friends, and with the crowds who surround her during public engagements, she is a much warmer, more accessible figure. But our meeting moves easily and pleasantly from one mood to the other.

As achievements go, I suggest that being elected President of one's country surely surpasses almost any other. To wake up every morning and find oneself resident of a grand house set in Dublin's Phoenix Park must be a pretty heady experience.

"It's still a source of wonder, and life has changed very dramatically," she agrees, but stresses that it isn't without sacrifices. "At the simplest level, my family have had to give up a largely private life, and a beautiful house." Her husband

band Martin felt it necessary to sell his successful dental practice in order to travel and support Mary in her role. Their three children - Emma, 15, and 13-year-old twins, Sara-mai and Justin - have also had to face some difficult changes.

The greatest of these are the special joys which stem from the extended families and the community network which is still common in Ireland, north and south. "We lived a very clanish life, close to my brothers and sisters, running in and out of one another's houses. On Saturdays, we never, ever, ever closed our front door."

It's difficult to conjure up that image in a room which, except for the fireplace laid with turf, wouldn't look out of place in an English palace. It was, after all, once the official residence of the Viceroy. "This house is a repository of both British and Irish history and heritage," she says.

Her mention of this quality is not mere diplomacy. "I think it's imperative that we



Mary McAleese: "We lived a very clanish life, running in and out of one another's houses. On Saturdays, we never, ever, ever, closed our front door"

are mature enough to recognise that we cannot change our history, particularly in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement, which was predicated on the need for us to respect the two cultures, and provide space for them."

As the first Irish President chosen from the Six Counties, as people in the Republic refer to Northern Ireland, she has had vivid personal experiences of the clash between those cultures, and the background of violence and bigotry.

Mary Lenehan, 48, was one of nine children born into the family of a publican in the Ardoyne area of North Belfast. There she witnessed at first hand the disadvantages of growing up as a Roman Catholic in an Orange supremacist state. When she was 19 her family were forced to flee. "We had to leave because of loyalist violence directed at our home and a series of sectarian episodes directed against my brother, who was deaf. They came to our house with machineguns and there was a loyalist car-bomb attack on my father's business."

Despite that bitter memory, she says: "We have to be generous and forgiving because I don't know of any other way to a better world. I grew up in a very, very cruel place that took away people's childhood and sketched them. It took people's talents and kept them locked up, and it placed unnecessary obstacles in the path of progress."

"I've learnt that the response is not to engage in re-

criminations. We have to live together, to share. I don't like the culture of conflict I grew up with. It was unhealthy. Life has taught me how important it is for us to learn to deal with each other in language that is not contemptuous, that we be joyful and curious about one another."

So how did Mary surmount the problems? She explains that her parents were the kind of people who spent their lives in servitude to their children. "They knew the key to keeping their children in Ireland, to ensure they wouldn't suffer the awful despair of us emigrating, was education."

That went for the girls, too. "I grew up without being gender-conscious," she says. "The first time I ever experienced a dampening effect was when I confided my ambitions to be a lawyer to our local priest. He doubted my ability because I was a woman and I came from the wrong social class. This made me even more determined."

The family eventually moved to Rosstrevor, Co Down, and Mary went on to study law at Belfast's Queen's University. She then trained as a barrister but quickly returned to academia, becoming at just 24, Professor of Criminal Law at Trinity in Dublin. She also spent some time as a current affairs journalist at RTE, the Irish state broadcaster, before becoming head of the legal studies department at Queen's. Six years later she be-

came the university's Pro-Vice Chancellor, beating David Trimble, who is now First Minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly.

She has held numerous appointments to committees covering housing, hospitals, homelessness, law reform and human rights. Chosen by Flannu, Fail to stand as President, she beat three other high-profile women - the Eurovision singer Dana, charity worker Ade Roche and politician Mary Banotti.

Outside Ireland, she remains virtually unknown. Certain Irish journalists also argue that she has been much more low-key than her publicity-conscious predecessor Mary Robinson. I suggest to her that, while people concede that she seems very nice, she seems, well, less noticeable.

She frowns. "In what way?" In London, perhaps, not many would recognise her name. "But I'm not President

of London," comes the deft reply. "And I can assure you that I'm very engaged among the Irish people. People are very open with me. They confide in me. I'm with them in times of celebration, and of grief and pain."

The bombing of Omagh was one instance. "I see Omagh as the final death throes of the culture of violence," she says. "I believe that all parties to the Good Friday Agreement were tested and remained robust, steadfast in a way that sent powerful signals to those who believe violence is the way forward."

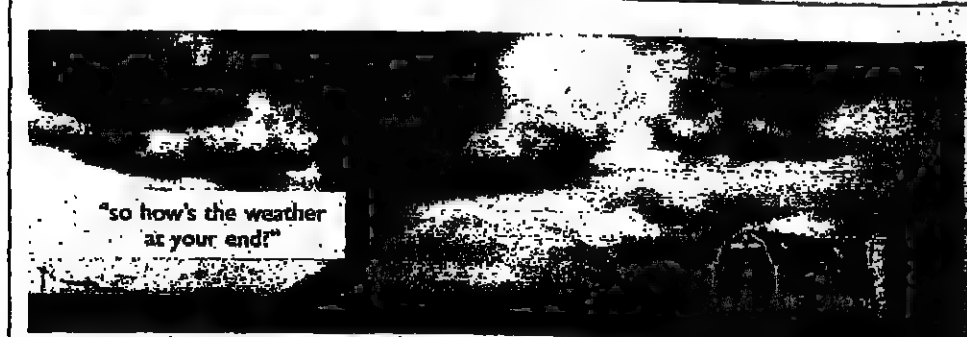
She argues that Ireland "is in the throes of shaking off the mantle of conflict and donning the mantle of consensus. It is a convulsive period, one which calls for the steadfastness of heart and of focus."

Was this why she had run for the presidency? "It wasn't any one thing. It came out of being a northerner, of being in

a position to contribute an insight particularly relevant to the times we live in. The Irish wanted a President who would be the first among equals, who would provide inspiration and who could showcase the country, and provide leadership beyond politics."

Known to be devoutly religious, she says: "I don't really want to discuss my form of Christianity, though I can tell you that my faith sustains me. It's a spine."

"When Kofi Annan [the UN Secretary-General] returned from Iraq he said: 'Never underestimate the power of prayer.' I wrote and thanked him for saying that. In my own life, prayer sustains me, keeps me going through the bad times. My parents and my grandparents used it through their grim times, and all I hope and wish for for my own children is that prayer will remain as important in their lives."



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John Bayley and Iris Murdoch: "Inside marriage one ceases to be observant because observation has become so automatic, its object at once absorbing and taken for granted." Photograph by Peter Nicholls

Living in an insidious fog

In 1994 we were invited to an international gathering in Israel. Iris asked not to give a paper, saying she would rather take part in a discussion in which she would answer questions on her novels or philosophical writings. She had often done this before, and it was always a success, because while never holding the floor, she had the knack of talking seriously anything that was put forward by a questioner, and investigating its potential in a friendly and sympathetic way that was both flattering and rewarding for the audience.

This time it all went wrong. The chairman was sympathetic, but soon baffled and made uncomfortable by Iris's inability to bring out the words she wanted. Her delivery had always been thoughtful and a little hesitant, and at first I was not perturbed, sure that she would recover in a few minutes. It was hard to say how conscious she was of her own difficulty, but the effect soon became paralyzing for the listener as well as for her. The audience was polite, but began to look concerned and embarrassed. Israelis are straightforward in their reactions. Several people got up and left.

I thought she would tell me afterwards how awful it had been, and that for some reason she simply hadn't felt up to it, but that did not happen. She seemed unaware, and to shrug the incident off, together with my cautious solicitude. I tried to avoid giving any impression that a fiasco had taken place. The chairman and one or two others came up to her afterwards and she talked and laughed in her natural way. One asked about her last novel, *The Green Knight*, and produced a copy for her to sign. It was at that moment I remembered being surprised at her telling me, several months before, that she was in trouble over her current novel, the one that appeared the following year as *Jackson's Dilemma*.

"It's this man Jackson," she had said to me one day with a worried detachment. "I can't make out who he is, or what he's doing." I was interested, because she hardly ever spoke of the people in a novel she was writing. "Perhaps he'll turn out to be a woman," I said. Iris was always indulgent to a joke from me, even a feeble one, but now she looked serious, and puzzled. "I don't think he's been born yet," she said.

Inside marriage one ceases to be observant because observation has become so automatic, its object at once absorbing and taken for granted. The mysteriousness of

Iris's remark seemed to me at the time quite normal. "Don't worry, I expect he'll be born any day now," I said, but she continued to look worried and upset. "I shan't do it, and shall never do another," she said, still in that detached tone. She had often said such things before, though not quite like that. I realised for the first time that something might be seriously wrong.

I realised it, but without any feeling of alarm, because I was somehow sure that everything would carry on just as usual. In a sense I was right. When the Alzheimer's patient loses touch with time, time seems to lose both its prospective and its retrospective significance. For the partner, that is. Knowing that Iris would always be the same, I felt that the tiny disturbing eccentricity I had noticed then, when we talked about "Jackson", must always have been present, and would go on undisturbed into the future. Nothing that

Iris could do, and nothing that could happen to her, could possibly make her any different. The eeriness of Alzheimer's beginnings is also its reassurance. Part of me knew that I ought to be seriously worried about the future: part knew that neither future nor past was of any consequence.

Alzheimer's is like an insidious fog, barely noticeable until everything around has disappeared. After that it is no longer possible to believe that a world outside the fog exists. First we saw our own GP, who asked Iris who the Prime Minister was. She had no idea but said to him with a smile that it surely didn't matter. He arranged an appointment at the big hospital with a specialist in geriatrics. Brain scans followed; and after an article appeared about this famous novelist's current difficulties, the Cambridge Research Unit of the Medical Council took a special interest, giving her a number of exhaustive tests in memory and language that she underwent politely, seeming both to humour the researchers and to enjoy working with them. *Jackson's Dilemma* came out and got exceptionally good reviews. I read these reviews to Iris, a thing I had never done before because she had never before wanted to listen. Now she listened politely but without understanding.

An Alzheimer's patient is not usually conscious in any definable way of what has happened. If it were otherwise the process, however irreversible it becomes, in the end, would have developed along different lines, in a different form. Some sufferers do remain conscious of their state,

Part of me knew I ought to be seriously worried

Iris



In the third extract from his memoir of Iris Murdoch, John Bayley describes how the first changes in his wife's behaviour were almost imperceptible.

paradoxical as this seems. The torment of knowing that you cannot speak or think what you want must be intolerable, and I have met patients in whom such a torment is clearly visible. But when Iris talks to me the result seems normal to her and to me surprisingly fluent, provided I do not listen to what is being said but apprehend it in a matrimonial way, as the voice of familiarity, and thus of recognition.

Time constitutes an anxiety because its conventional shape and progression have gone, leaving only a perpetual query. There are some days when "When are we leaving?" never stops, though it is repeated without agitation. Indeed, there can seem something quite peaceful about it, as if it hardly mattered when we went, or where, and to stay at home might in any case be preferable. In Faulkner's novel *Soldier's Pay*, the blinded airman keeps saying to his friend "When are they going to let me out?" That makes one flinch: the writer has contrived unerringly to put the reader in the blind man's place. Iris's query does not in itself suggest desire for change or release into a former state of being; nor does she want to know when we are getting in the car and going out to lunch. The journey on which we are leaving may for her mean the final one, or, if that sounds too

portentous, simply some sort of disappearance from the daily life which, without her work, must itself have lost all sense and identity.

Iris once told me that the question of identity had always puzzled her. She thought she herself hardly possessed such a thing, whatever it was. I said she must know what it was like to be oneself, even to revel in the consciousness of oneself as a secret and separate person — a person unknown to any other. She smiled, was amused, looked uncomprehending. It was not something she bothered about.

Conceivably it is the persons who hug their identity most closely to themselves for whom the condition of Alzheimer's is most dreadful. Iris's own lack of sense of identity seemed to float her more gently into its world of preoccupied emptiness. Placidly every night she insists on laying out quantities of her clothing on my side of the bed, and when I quietly remove them, back they come again. She wants to look after me? Is that it? It may be a simpler sort of confusion, for when we go to bed she often asks me which side she should be on. Or is it something deeper and fuller, less conscious and less "caring" than that far too self-conscious adjective suggests? She has never wanted to look after me in the past, thank goodness; indeed one of the pleasures of living with

Iris was her serenely benevolent unawareness of one's daily welfare. So restful.

As I work in bed early in the morning, typing on my old portable with Iris quietly asleep beside me, her presence as she now is seems as it always was, and as it always should be. I know she must once have been different but I have no true memory of a different person.

Waking up for a peaceful second or two she looks vaguely at the Olivetti lying on my knees, cushioned by one of her jerseys. Not long ago, when I asked if it disturbed her, she said she liked to hear that funny noise in the morning. She must be used to it, although a couple of years ago she would have been getting up herself at this time — 7am — and preparing to start her own day. Nowadays she lies asleep, sometimes giving a little grunt or murmur, often sleeping well past nine, when I rouse and dress her. This ability to sleep like a cat, at all hours of the day and night, must be one of the great blessings that sometimes go with Alzheimer's, converse of the anxiety state that comes on in wakefulness and finds worried words such as "When are we leaving?"

Dressing most days is a reasonably happy and comic business. I am myself still far from sure which way round her underpants are supposed to go: we usually decide between us that it doesn't matter. Trousers are simpler: hers have a grubby white label on the inside at the back. I ought to give her a bath, or rather a wash of some sort since baths are tricky, but I tend to postpone it from day to day. For some reason it is easier to do the job in cold blood, as it were, at an idle moment later in the day. Iris never objects to this: she seems in a curious way to accept it as both quite normal and wholly exceptional, as if the two concepts had become identified for her. Perhaps that is why she seems to accept her daily state as if none other had ever existed: assuming that no one else would find her changed in any way; just as my own memory only works with her now as she is, and so, as my memory seems to assume, must always have been.

It seems normal that the old routines of washing and dressing have vanished as if they, too, had never existed. If she remembered them, which she doesn't, I can imagine her saying to herself, did one really go through every day all those unnecessary rituals? My own memory, after all, can hardly believe that I once went through all those other rituals of falling

in love and becoming agitated, ecstatic, distracted.

Those in the same boat have a natural desire to compare notes. A man whom I had known when we were both 18-year-olds and in the Army, wrote to me to commiserate. Aside from his job as a stockbroker, his chief interests had been girls and vintage cars. When his wife, younger than he, developed the condition, he looked after her with exemplary devotion. He liked reporting progress, or the reverse, in terms of effective notes. Once he wrote: "I used to view the female form divine in a rather different light. Now I find myself hosing it down every morning."

I do it much less often. But I giggle internally if that jest comes into my head when washing between her legs and working over the contours of Iris's "female form divine". No use trying to share this joke with Iris. But she will watch the animated cartoons on the children's TV programme with something approaching glee.

We have had television only a few months — it never occurred to us before. Now I listen for its noise from the kitchen and hope it will remain switched on. If there is silence, I know that Iris has switched it off and is sitting there without moving. Attention span does not seem to be the trouble. She turns the thing off not because she is bored with it — boredom doesn't seem with her a possible state of mind — but out of an instinct to get away, the one that makes her say "When are we leaving?" She leaves offered and attempted occupations — all now tacitly given up — for the same reason. When are they going to let us out?

● Extracted from *Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch* by John Bayley, published by Duckworth at £16.95. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0900 134159. Copyright John Bayley 1998

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LABOUR'S TABLETS

How Viagra can help the Health Service

"I shudder to think of the ceaseless cascade of medicine which is pouring down British throats at the present time," said Aneurin Bevan in words which should be ringing in the ears of the NHS as it ponders whether the NHS should pay for Viagra, the new treatment for male impotence. Mr Bevan has inherited Mr Bevan's dilemma: how to satisfy the public's expectation of what the NHS can provide without bankrupting the nation. For a Government that claims it loves to think the unthinkable, Viagra should stimulate a long-overdue debate on how the NHS is funded and the priorities given to the services that it offers.

Science has helped the NHS save money. New drugs have reduced the length of time people need stay in hospital. The number of patients suffering from the twelve major disease types — including bronchitis and tuberculosis — has almost halved over the last forty years, saving £10 billion a year. Despite this, NHS spending has ballooned from £433 million in 1949 to £37 billion. The drugs bill has tripled in the last 12 years. Although modern Britons are living longer and are no longer prone to epidemics, more people are being treated on the NHS than ever before. If the Government wants to control spending, it needs to understand why the bills keep on rising.

Since its inception, the NHS has gradually eroded the individual's responsibility for their health. Politicians have surrendered to the public's relentless demand for the best and latest treatments to be provided free of charge. Treatments for tuberculosis meningitis, pernicious anaemia and then diphtheria became available in the first year of the NHS alone. Twenty five years later, kidney dialysis, heart-lung machines, hip replacements and a range of other developments were considered routine. By 1993, almost 90 per cent of drugs dispensed were free prescriptions.

As people began to consider such free provision a "right", Ministers and doctors became afraid to discuss whether the demands facing the NHS should be placed in order of priority. Should a patient with a terminal illness be given a new drug, costing thousands of pounds, simply to keep him

alive for another few days? Or is that money better spent treating hundreds of patients with less serious, but still painful, conditions? Should the NHS spend money to change people's way of life — such as giving fertility treatment — or focus solely on improving health and curing illness?

Failure to address these issues has led doctors and hospitals to ration their services in a muddled and often covert manner. A national health lottery has emerged, where provision depends on where you live. The case of Child B, Jaymee Bowen, whose health authority refused to give her experimental treatment for leukaemia, dramatically exposed this. Some health authorities have said they cannot afford new treatments for cancer and Alzheimer's. Although people aged over 65 account for more than 40 per cent of hospital spending, there is a growing fear that elderly patients are being discriminated against in favour of the young.

The introduction of Viagra gives Mr Bevan the opportunity to open these issues to public debate. Individuals need to be made more aware of the cost of their treatment, and encouraged to take more responsibility for their personal well-being. So long as patients are shielded from the real cost of "free" prescriptions, demand for them will continue to rise. Ministers should consider the French system. There, patients pay for their prescriptions in their entirety; if they produce the receipt, they will be reimbursed for 80 per cent of the cost, or more if they fall into certain indigent groups. Private medical insurance should be rewarded: the abolition of tax relief on medical insurance for those over 65 was unfortunate. If more people were insured, the NHS could consider whether non-essential or cosmetic services should be provided free of charge.

Politicians of all persuasions might find this debate uncomfortable. But as the NHS is a creation of the State, it is a political responsibility to control it. Mr Bevan might move from Bevan to another Old Labour wise man: "There is no foreseeable limit on the social services which the nation can reasonably require" warned Richard Crossman, "except the limit that the Government imposes".

SINK CITIES

Whitehall must liaise with itself before helping others

As Britain became richer during the 1960s, one group was left further behind. This country began to resemble America more than continental Europe, with an "underclass" of welfare dependants cut off from the jobs market, concentrated in council housing, both suffering and causing disproportionate levels of crime. For many voters, Labour's intention to tackle such problems was one of its more attractive features.

In fact, the Conservatives had spent heavily on addressing urban deprivation. But it did not always help. Labour's New Deal for Communities, launched by the Prime Minister yesterday, starts by examining why the failures occurred and what could be done to prevent them in future. There is clearly no point in building a community centre for a sink estate only to have it vandalised by the residents. It would probably be far better to ask them what they want in the first place and involve them in the planning and design. They will be more likely to appreciate and care for the result.

The Government's new policy virtually bypasses local authorities — which in many cases have exacerbated rather than ameliorated the problems — in favour of smaller "neighbourhood management" groups. Ministers are hoping that these will dominate the first 17 "pathfinder" projects, representing a triumph of decentralisation over old-Labour statism.

The other welcome aspect of the report is its acknowledgement that investment must

go into people as well as bricks and mortar. Where long-term and youth unemployment are high, money should be spent on teaching people the skills to make them employable. Where teenagers have nothing to do, football sessions could be more effective in combating crime than higher fences.

The problems of sink estates are caused as much by social and population change as by buildings. Although a cleaner and more congenial environment helps to lift morale, it is not enough in itself. These estates have suffered from the exodus of "respectable" working people who, in the 1960s and 1970s, formed a critical mass of law-abiding residents. Now that many estates are populated almost entirely by the unemployed and single parents, the virtuous peer pressure has dissipated. Measures to encourage working people back to estates — or at least to involve them through mentoring, arts and sports — would help to reintroduce the male role models that so many disaffected youths lack.

The biggest challenge lies within Government itself. This is a huge experiment in "joined-up thinking", involving 18 committees and 11 departments. The exercise recognises the overlapping nature of the problems, and the need for matching solutions. Whitehall is temperamentally unsuited to the task. Encouraging officials to deal effectively with other departments may be as hard as discouraging teenagers from spraying graffiti on every newly built wall.

TASTE NOW, PAY LATER

Artists can drum up new audiences by public performance

Every arts organisation in Britain knows, or ought to know, that it must find "tomorrow's audience", or perish. But the gap between good intentions and proven success in attracting first-time visitors — particularly to the more serious, subsidised arts — is still far too wide.

It is easy for those in the arts to lay the blame for falling audiences at somebody else's door: television is blamed for "dumbing down" tastes; Hollywood for "dumbing down" the young with saturation advertising; or the Government for not "investing" enough in highbrow culture. But too many arts organisations are guilty of many arts organisations are guilty of marketing clinging to tired old ways of marketing themselves, ways that appeal only to those who already go to concerts or the theatre. The hard challenge is to break through to the millions who "know what they like and the millions who 'know what they like'". That is why Birmingham's ArtsFest initiative, reported today on our arts pages, is so admirable.

Seventy music, theatre, dance and visual arts groups are taking over the city centre to give brief extracts from their forthcoming attractions. The Royal Shakespeare Company will perform 30-minute spells of the Bard. There will be orchestra, opera and ballet, workshops and "taster" pieces. The strategy is the same as trailers for films and the first chapters of new books published in slim paperback in order to whet appetites. Such wide public previews of forthcoming

arts events are new to Britain. Birmingham's ArtsFest is taken from Amsterdam's successful Uitmarkt (Out Market). This is itself based on the thrifty Dutch annual day of Uitmarkt, a national car boot sale, in which each household puts out on its doorstep items that it wants to get rid of. The crowds at the Uitmarkt can either buy tickets then and there or are reminded when the show comes on that they enjoyed the taste of it.

Some performing arts lend themselves to coherent extracts better than others. Diana Rigg declaiming a speech by Phèdre might make a more intelligible advertisement than a gobblet from Schoenberg's Moses and Aron or O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra or even the lost chord of a Beethoven piano sonata. Purists may complain that such brief extracts dumb down high art. And the Reduced Shakespeare Company is already gutting Shakespeare. But for once the artists are performing free instead of asking for more subsidy, just as their predecessors in the infant theatre drummed up customers through the town before their performance.

Whether this form of evangelism sells seats is yet to be seen. But Birmingham's experiment in letting the public surf freely through the arts could introduce a new audience to the delights of cinema, theatre and gallery. This is the sort of bold idea that must be tried if public participation in cultural life is to be expanded.

Bank's power on monetary policy

From Lord Bruce of Donington

Sir, I am sure Aneurin Bevan would have been greatly intrigued by your leading article of September 10, "Change at Chequers", in which you forcibly urge Her Majesty's Government to come to an early decision on its programme for the next parliamentary session. In your very first sentence you remind us of Bevan's insistence that "the language of priorities is the language of socialism".

I indeed go further than this. After discussing the various proposals that might receive consideration by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, you conclude: "Some political risks must be taken. Or, as Bevan also put it: 'we know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road. They get run down'" (italics mine).

Emboldened by such authoritative support, may I offer a further weighty observation, made by my former chief at the same time:

... either poverty will use democracy to win the struggle against property, or property, in fear of poverty, will destroy democracy. (In *Place of Fear*, William Heinemann, 1952)

This, perhaps, may be considered in the light of Mr Gordon Brown's first decision, as the newly appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, to hand over a very substantial government power, that of making interest rate and monetary policy decisions, to a Bank of England given independent powers to do so.

This step, it will be recalled, did not feature in Labour's election manifesto of 1997. The proposal surfaced, in official form, in a memorandum from Mr Nigel Lawson in 1988 to the then Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE OF DONINGTON
(Parliamentary Private Secretary to Aneurin Bevan, 1945-50),
House of Lords,
September 13.

Transport policy

From Dr Robin Russell-Jones

Sir, Public transport, you say in your leading article of September 10 on parliamentary priorities, is one of the issues which can be left to fight it out for the remaining space in the Government's legislative programme. Let us hope that it wins, sooner rather than later.

As things stand, John Prescott seems to be suffering the same fate as every other government minister who has tried to take his environmental responsibilities seriously. He is being sidelined. All radical proposals for transport have been blocked, and it now seems that his White Paper, emasculated though it is, will not even appear in the Queen's Speech.

This is a triple tragedy: first, because the scientific link between traffic pollution and health is becoming progressively stronger; second, because car use is the fastest growing contributor to global warming; and third, because it implies that even someone as powerful as the Deputy Prime Minister cannot overcome the unholy alliance of vested interests which inevitably oppose sane proposals for an integrated transport policy.

It also tells us something about the priorities of this Government. Tony Blair can always provide an eco-friendly soundtrack when the occasion demands, but is clearly unwilling to translate this into action. Like his friend Bill Clinton, he seems more intent on courting popularity than implementing policy. If his period in office is not to become another time of wasted opportunity, he should act decisively to support John Prescott's proposals.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL-JONES,
Atholl House,
Church Lane, Stoke Poges,
Buckinghamshire SL2 4NZ,
September 13.

Bracken menace

From Mr K. L. Rawling

Sir, As a forestry consultant with 44 years' experience in forestry and woodland management, I fully agree with Professor J. A. Taylor (letter, September 11) on the need to tackle the spread of bracken.

In the mid-Fifties and through the Sixties, I was involved in establishing fire rides between forest compartments on deep bracken sites. The best proven method we had, and which still shows the results to this day, was to bruise the bracken rather than cut it — which merely redistributes the growth — three times in the season.

A square metal roller in three sections was towed behind a tractor bruising the stems, which could not heal quickly and lost moisture and nutrients from the broken area. After three years the bracken completely disappeared, to be replaced by grass. Any heavy object from a girder to an old railway sleeper, even a large log, would have the same effect. This method is, I believe, more environmentally friendly and cheaper than applying chemicals.

Yours sincerely,
K. L. RAWLING,
10 Somerville Terrace,
Osney, West Yorkshire LS21 1HS,
September 14.

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Hague's snap referendum on EMU

From Mr Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, An opinion poll conducted on behalf of all Conservative MEPs at the end of last month, now in the hands of the party leadership, demonstrates why the device of a snap ballot will intensify rather than end divisions in the Conservative Party over economic and monetary union (letters, September 10). It shows that Conservative voters are overwhelmingly pragmatic: they are in favour of keeping our options open (52 per cent). On the wings, 27 per cent never wish to join, and 17 per cent want to join now.

On the basis of discussions amongst my colleagues and with Conservative candidates in Brussels last week, I would judge that a similar threefold division applies to those who will carry the party's colours in next year's European elections. This team of candidates, selected on the "one member one vote" system introduced by the leadership, is balanced and representative of all views in the party. It should not therefore surprise anyone that Conservative candidates will hold different views on Britain's membership of EMU.

Attempts to conceal these views would be futile and dishonest. As I said during my own selection, the challenge for our party is not to suppress debate, but to avoid crucifying ourselves in public for the benefit of our opponents. Despite the zealotry, the single currency is not the single issue.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SPENCER,
Barford Court, Lampard Lane,
Churt, Surrey GU10 2HU,
September 14.

From Mr Conor Burns

Sir, William Hague's imaginative ballot of party members offers the Conservative Party renewed hope.

If the current policy of timid opposition to the single currency is endorsed the British people will see a party waiting for answers to sensible questions: will it work, what will it cost, how would it survive an economic cycle, what are the implications for Britain's self-government? That pragmatism will be in sharp contrast to the dogmatic position of the Labour Government pursuing early entry.

All democrats within the Conservative Party should now pledge that they will accept whatever decision we the grass roots make and put an end to the bickering and backbiting that has undermined our credibility with the nation for too long.

Rather than the hollow calls to

Risk assessment

From Mr Geoffrey J. Lomer, FENG

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Scientific terrorism", September 9) is to be congratulated on his detailed and perceptive analysis of the confusion surrounding "risk" — particularly where health matters are concerned.

Many scientists would strongly support his views, even though the uncomfortable cry, "more research is needed", may sometimes be motivated by the prospect of extra finance for some pet project.

However, as Jenkins points out, the media — and headline writers in particular — have a responsibility to make a much greater effort to be objective in reporting these matters, and in particular to help the public by putting the levels of the risk into context.

I suggest, therefore, that the scientific community should now join for

personal unity of recent years this ballot is a call to unity around a principled and popular policy. It is a call to unity that the Conservative Party should answer. William Hague will have my vote.

Yours faithfully,
CONOR BURNS,
5 Liverpool Street
Inner Avenue,
Southampton SO14 6FW,
September 9.

From Mr David Hurford-Jones

Sir, When William Hague ran for election as leader of the Conservative Party he proposed to reform the party rules for the election of leader and then offer himself for re-election under the new rules. Very soon after getting the job he effectively avoided the re-election process by calling a snap referendum of the party members to confirm him as leader and accept his reform package before the details had been finalised and properly discussed.

Now he is calling another snap referendum of the party members on his policy on EMU in an attempt to head off serious discussion on the subject at the coming party conference.

So now we know that William Hague is a wily politician looking after his own career but not someone to be trusted with seriously looking after the best interests of all the British people.

Yours sincerely,
D. J. HURFORD-JONES,
Island House,
Burford, Oxford OX18 4RR,
September 11.

From Mr Idris R. Francis

Sir, Even if hype, spin, lies and taxpayer-funded propaganda force us into EMU against all logic and objective analysis, Mary Ann Sieghart's view that "the issue will instantly disappear" after entry from within the Tory ranks ("Tony Blair: saviour of the Tories", September 10) seems to assume that EMU will be a success.

What is far more likely is that the failure and ultimate disintegration of EMU will take with it the reputations and careers of those whose judgment or ulterior motives led us so badly astray.

By standing firm against EMU Mr Hague is staking out the firm ground on which electoral success will be based.

Yours faithfully,
IDRIS R. FRANCIS,
Sunny Bank, Church Lane,
West Meon, Petersfield GU32 1LD,
September 10.

ces with the responsible media to evolve some form of simple numerical scale for the average risk to an individual of various activities. The public would thus find "understanding the language of risk", as advocated in your leading article of September 8, "Mad sheep scare", was a more realistic task.

Such a scale would be applicable to risks for which historical data exist; it could not readily quantify predicted "theoretical" risks, but at least would perhaps enable people to judge whether flying, driving, playing rugby, riding water slides — or eating beef or lamb — present significant levels of risk.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY J. LOMER,
Ladoko, Little Croft Road,
Goring-on-Thames, Reading,
Berkshire RG8 9ER,
September 8.

as they generate more deliveries to households.

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Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DYKES,
Managing Director,
Royal Mail,
148 Old Street, EC1V 9HQ,
September 9.

Legal language

From Mr Justin Ellis

Sir, I am a solicitor. I recently drafted an agreement for the design and hosting of websites, using "reader friendly" English as the Campaign for Plain English suggests. I am all for the removal of legal jargon from lawyers' language, particularly for agreements of this sort, where the reader is unlikely to be a lawyer.

I was therefore disappointed when my client asked me to alter the language to make the agreement look more formal and "professional". Naturally, these instructions were followed: passives were inserted, sentences lengthened, punctuation removed, legalese imported and the whole agreement became less intelligible though its meaning had not changed one iota.

I wonder what the other party will think when they receive it.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN ELLIS,
19 Edburton Avenue,
Brighton, East Sussex BN1 6EJ,
justin.ellis@dmh.co.uk
September 14.

Will more news be good news?

From Mr Peter Bazalgette

Sir, Eight distinguished elders of ITV bemoan the proposed move of *News at Ten* (letter, September 10); see also letters, September 9). They are suffering from a common condition amongst retired people — a reluctance to accept change.

ITV wishes to move *News at Ten* in order to respond to increased competition in the schedules. What's more, the multi-channel television that is the source of the competition now offers three 24-hour news channels. So we can have TV news whenever we like. We do not need regulations demanding it at a certain hour. For those who worked in the old four-channel television this is a new concept called consumer choice.

If Sir David Nichols et al are right that ITV is making a commercial mistake and its network suffers, the schedulers would have to move *News at Ten* back again. But, as an independent television producer, I believe that to be the sort of free decision which networks should take for themselves, without the intervention of a nanny.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BAZALGETTE,
29 Kensington Park Gardens,
London W11 2QS,
September 10.

From Sir Brian Young

Sir, Eight years ago, with their new broadcasting legislation, politicians made it difficult to retain some depth and serious purpose in the output of ITV, particularly at peak time. They rarely watched television and they seemed to care little about the fate of drama, comedy, documentaries, current affairs, arts, education and religion on this channel. But they claimed that their type of competition and their pressure on the funding of programmes would do good.

It is a sad irony that only when their changes finally threaten *News at Ten* are they troubled.

Yours truly,
BRIAN YOUNG
(Director General, IBA, 1970-82),
Hill End, Woodhill Avenue,
C Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire SL9 8DJ,
September 11.

From Ms Helen Grierson

Sir, Why should the viewing habits of "decision-makers and wealth creators" be of prime consideration, as Mr Christopher Scholfield suggests (letter, September 5), when deciding whether *News at Ten* should be moved to 6.30pm? And even if, as he postulates, those most likely to react to advertising will form the majority audience at 6.30pm, does it matter?

The important thing is to give as many people access to news as possible. A more informed public should lead to a better governed country.

If I made decisions and created wealth I think I would have enough gumption to install a video recorder.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN GRIERSON,
Smithy House,
Boreland, Lockerbie DG11 2LL,
helen.grierson@virgin.net

Put in quad

From Mr Gordon Brudenell

Sir, From 1960 onwards, until he retired, I taught with a PE/rugby teacher in Walsall who had an enormously rich range of sayings (letters, September 4, 8 and 9).

I remember: "Line up alphabetically according to size" and "If you fool around on the field and break your leg, lad, don't come running to me for sympathy!"

He has long since gone to the great rugby field on high, but is well remembered by generations of old boys and colleagues.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BRUDENELL,
95 Little Sutton Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands B75 6PT,
September 14.

From Mrs Eileen Owen

Sir, Perhaps the master referred to by Mr Peter Strachan Cowie (letter, September 9) was not only a geographer but an archer — a "pair of arrows" referring to a matched set of three.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN OWEN,
27 Corkland Road,
Chorlton cum Hardy,
Manchester M21 8UP,
September 9.

Balanced view

From Mr Anthony Brindle

Sir, I was delighted to read (report, September 10) that the findings of research at the Max Planck Institute into the connection between mental decline and the ability to balance confirm the instruction from my father in the 1930s: "Stand up my boy, it's the first sign of old age when you sit up on your socks."

Yours verily,
ANTHONY BRINDLE,
Glentworth Cottage,
36 Park Road,
Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7LT,
September 12.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1998

Institutions aim to apply brakes to proposed move to US LucasVarity investors to rebel



Rice based in the US

By PAUL DURMAN
UK shareholders in LucasVarity are unhappy about the brake systems group's plans to turn itself into a US company and may be prepared to block the move.

Some institutions are sceptical that LucasVarity needs to make the switch — quitting the FTSE 100 index in the process — in order to take part in the consolidation in the auto components industry. Setting out its plans last week, LucasVarity complained that it felt constrained by the reluctance among UK investors to allow their companies to take on the high

level of borrowings that have become familiar in the US. LucasVarity expects to issue the document setting out the detail of its change of domicile in about a fortnight's time. The move requires the support of three-quarters of the shareholders who vote, either in person or by proxy, at a meeting to be held in November.

Richard Regan, head of investments at the Association of British Insurers, which represents many of the largest investors in the UK stock market, said: "There is considerable disquiet that they intend to change domicile. One must await their document to see what advantages they are going to claim will come from this, but they are going to have to be pretty convincing."

Some investors believe that Victor Rice, LucasVarity's British-born but American-based chief executive, wants to move to take advantage of the more generous level of US salaries and stock option awards. This was dismissed as "absolute rubbish" by Nick Jones, a LucasVarity spokesman. He said Mr Rice had already made significant sums of money from his long career in the US.

Another concern is that the move to the US will mean that Varity, previously run by Mr Rice, will have captured control of the former Lucas Industries without paying a premium to the UK group's shareholders. One senior investment executive said: "Lucas shareholders did not invest in a company which they thought was going to be subject to the very different culture in the US."

LucasVarity believes one of the reasons it was unable to compete to acquire the brakes business of TTT, recently sold to Continental for \$1.9 billion (£1.4 billion), was the negative view of highly borrowed companies taken by UK investors. However, having received £803 million for VarityPerkins, the diesel engine business sold to Caterpillar of the US at the end of last year, LucasVarity currently has net cash. One leading fund manager said: "They're hardly strapped for cash, are they? Perhaps they want to buy General Motors."

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5281.7 (+13.1)
Nikkei	12,128 (+13.3)
DAX	2,454.08 (+13.33)
Hang Seng	10,400 (+1.01)
ASX	1,028.71 (+1.01)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long bond	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
3-mth note	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
Life long rate	114.03 (113.58)
STERLING	
New York	1.6743 (1.6700)
London	1.6738 (1.6708)
DM	2.8237 (2.8557)
FF	8.4675 (8.5748)
SP	133.36 (132.40)
Yen	222.19 (223.10)
£ index	100.1 (103.0)
DOLLAR	
London	1.6800 (1.6870)
DM	5.6613 (5.6800)
FF	1.3534 (1.3593)
SP	133.36 (132.40)
Yen	106.6 (109.5)
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$13.70 (n/a)
GOLD	
London close	\$290.75 (\$286.95)

Chancellor hints at G7 desire for lower rates

By JANET BUSH AND ALASDAIR MURRAY
GORDON BROWN yesterday hinted broadly that interest rates in America and Britain are set to fall as part of the Group of Seven's new emphasis on promoting growth in the troubled world economy.

This was despite indications by Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, addressing the TUC, that there would not be a cut in interest rates in the near future.

The City, though, appeared to believe the Chancellor, who has no direct influence on interest rates, rather than the Governor, who does.

The pound slumped more than 3 pence to close at DM2.8235 as the City digested good inflation figures which were bang in line with the Bank of England's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

In a briefing shortly before he flew to Tokyo yesterday for talks with the Japanese Finance Minister, the Central Bank Governor and the head of Japan's economic planning agency, Mr Brown re-emphasised the new perception that the balance of risks to the world economy had moved from inflation to lack of growth.

Without being drawn on interest rates in individual G7 countries, he highlighted recent statements both by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, and last week by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. He welcomed the MPC's statement that it was now taking account of the deteriorating conditions in the world economy and said that the MPC was not immune to international developments.

Mr Brown said that Monday night's G7 statement was the result of intensive private telephone calls between finance ministers and emphasised the statement was part of a process that will involve more discussions in Tokyo today, leading up to a full meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors in Washington on October 3.

It is also expected that tonight Mr Brown will signal a volte face in the International Monetary Fund's position on limited capital controls for countries at the early stages of development. The Chancellor said that he would be referring to this issue in a speech he will make in Tokyo tonight to Japanese bankers.

Inflation fell to its target measure in August, raising City hopes that the Bank of England will begin to consider a cut in interest rates.

Underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, slipped from 2.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent — the first time it has hit the Government's target measure since January.

Headline inflation eased from 3.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent, raising hopes that pay inflation might also begin to drop back.



Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, addressed the Trades Union Congress yesterday. He said the fight against inflation was paramount. TUC reports, page 22

Microsoft passes GE to become US largest

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK
ON THE DAY that it was accused of tampering with evidence, Microsoft has surpassed GE to become America's biggest company with a market value of \$262 billion (£156 billion).

An obstruction of justice charge would be a first for Bill Gates's software house and could result in executives being sent to prison. Any charges may also become part of the Government's anti-trust case.

The company denied new allegations that it destroyed documents relevant to the Justice Department case. Such an act would constitute a criminal offence of obstruction of justice. Microsoft said it handed over 1.3 million pages of evidence.

The allegations originated from a former Microsoft employee who testified in a separate case against the company. According to the suit, Microsoft deleted files about dealings at its offices in Germany between 1991 and 1993.

There have also been separate claims that Microsoft deleted e-mails connected to the anti-trust suit in the run-up to the filing of charges in May. The suit concerns the company's efforts to reach a dominant position in the Internet browser market and attempts to defend the dominance of its computer operating system.

It was news of a three-week delay to the trial of the anti-trust case that provided the impetus Microsoft needed to overtake GE. The software company was not hit as hard by recent market turmoil as GE, which operates in more cyclical markets, including aero-engines and consumer appliances.

GE briefly breached the \$300 billion mark this summer before its market value declined amid worries that Asian customers were cancelling orders.

The anti-trust trial concerning Microsoft's business practices has so far failed to dent the company's performance relative to its peers in the computer sector.

The trial was delayed by three weeks after the company and the Justice Department both asked for more time. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson will start taking evidence on October 15.

Cortecs helicopter to go as loss deepens

By PAUL DURMAN
CORTECs, the drug development company, is to sell the helicopter that was one example of the lavish lifestyle enjoyed by Glen Travers, who was forced from the chairmanship in June over an expenses controversy.

Mr Travers is now suing Cortecs for about £1.5 million, including rights to £200,000 or so of annual benefits that included school fees, plane tickets and membership of a business high-flyers organisation. Mr Travers has previously said that the company helicopter was widely used by other senior executives.

Shares in Cortecs fell a further 13 per cent, to 51p, yesterday when the company reported disappointing regulatory feedback on its osteoporosis drug, Macritonin.

The Finnish regulatory agency has told Cortecs that it is not prepared to approve Macritonin on the basis of the data submitted and wants to wait until bone mineral density data is available. This could take 18 months or more.

It would be a serious blow to Cortecs if other nations took a similar view on Macritonin. Investors had hoped that the drug might receive some marketing approvals this year.

Michael Flynn, acting chief executive, said that Cortecs had always expected that some regulators to be tough, but it is optimistic that others will be willing to give approval. The company has just appointed Laphal Laboratories as its marketing partner for France, a deal that could generate \$11.5 million (£7 million) in sales and milestone payments.

Lord Patten, the former Conservative minister John Patten, who has taken over as Cortecs chairman, is promising transparent and "hype-free" communications to address shareholder worries about the biotech sector. In this vein, the company said that it has no plans for a cash call to replenish its £28.3 million funds.

Cortecs lost £18 million (£11.7 million loss) in the year to June, partly reflecting provisions connected with Mr Travers's departure. Research and development spending rose by £5.2 million, to £16.7 million.

Coal rescue plans hit by backlash

NEW moves to rescue the coal industry ran into controversy yesterday as large industrial energy users and the gas industry turned on the Department of Trade and Industry (Christine Buckley writes).

The backlash came after The Times revealed that Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, had met Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, to discuss help for the industry.

The Energy Intensive Users Group yesterday wrote to John Birtle, the Energy Minister, demanding a price cap on the generators. Lisa Waters, policy adviser with the group, said: "We would be concerned about any government action that would further bump up the price of electricity."

Judge criticises Chinese walls

By RICHARD MILES
CHINESE WALLS — measures adopted by big companies to protect client confidentiality — do not work, a High Court judge said yesterday in a case brought against KPMG, the accountancy firm, by Prince Jefri, younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei.

After acting for Prince Jefri in a different case, KPMG was asked to conduct a financial investigation code-named Project Gemini — for the Brunei Investment Agency, which the prince headed until his removal earlier this year.

Mr Justice Pumfrey said that it was "absolutely plain" that the investigation would touch on serious allegations about the prince and that information communicated by him to KPMG "may well be relevant to those allegations". Ordering

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At The Live Centre

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TRADES UNION CONGRESS AT BLACKPOOL

Blunkett reveals help for jobless

DAVID BLUNKETT yesterday tried to reassure trade unionists that the Government would help out in areas worst hit by job losses as he announced a £38m deal to retrain redundant and unskilled workers.

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment also disclosed that the Government would set up a £5m rapid response fund to which regions could bid for extra cash if there were large-scale job losses in the next few months.

Mr Blunkett adopted a more conciliatory tone than John Prescott had the previous day when addressing the TUC as he underlined the need for partnership between the unions and the Government.

However, unions were bitterly disappointed about the scale of help for the jobless when it emerged that the Government was only providing £5m in new money and the remaining £33m for regional development agencies would be redeployed in each of the next three years, from other areas of training.

Tony Blair will give further details of the emergency fund today, after a meeting at the Fujitsu factory in his constituency, but regional development agencies will be able to put bids together with help from local firms, trade unions, Tecs, further education colleges and universities, for instant help for retraining. Universities and colleges would be given extra cash payments if they took on workers for retraining.

Mr Blunkett received a polite but cool reception after insisting that there was a middle way between direct government intervention to bail out industry and the free market policy of doing nothing.

"The Government is not going to change the economic profile or policies, nor should we expect determinism that nothing should be done. We should intervene, but in a different way," he said.

Congress challenges Blair to live on £3.60

TONY and Cherie Blair were yesterday urged to try to live on the minimum wage of £3.60 an hour as unions demanded the level should be at least £5 a hour.

Two of Britain's biggest unions stepped up their calls for the pay level to be lifted as Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the public service union, told congress that he defied the Prime Minister and his wife "to try to live for six months on that rate, let alone for a lifetime and be happy and content".

To cheers he said that although he was proud a minimum wage was finally going to be law "part of me is outraged that at the close of the 20th century we still won't pay a decent living wage".

Mr Bickerstaffe, who has

many members who earn less than the proposed minimum level, said £3.60 an hour "is not enough for food, for clothing, for rent. It is not enough for a night out or to give the kids a treat". The Unison chief said £3.60 marked a retreat and that the lower rate of £3 for younger workers meant that young people were being "short-changed".

Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&GWU, said the people's verdict on the minimum wage could be summed up as "thank you for the principle, shame about the rate". He told delegates: "To those who continue to lecture us about pay restraint, Rodney was right when he said you try living on £3.60 an hour. You will be living in poverty."

The TUC is committed to negotiating a minimum level of £4 an hour in pay negotiations but it is now under pressure to revise that figure up to £5. Mr Bickerstaffe said: "Before long no worker should have less than £5 an hour negotiated by unions." Mr Morris backed that figure.

However, calls for a £5-an-hour minimum wage incensed employers' groups. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "A minimum wage at £5 would be a substantial job destroyer. Only yesterday these people were going on to John Prescott about job losses. What do they think such a level would do? Do they have no idea about markets or economics?"

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry said: "We are not going to see

the impact of the minimum wage until 18 months down the line. A minimum wage at a higher figure would have a negative impact on inflation and jobs."

Professor George Bain, chairman of the Low Pay Commission, which set the level of the minimum wage and is responsible for reviewing it, told the congress that he stood by his report. He said while the level did not satisfy everyone, it marked a big breakthrough. John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said the minimum wage was one of the "genuine milestones in British industrial relations". But he said the union movement would urge that the rate be increased. He said: "We will be pressing the case again and again."

Barry Greenwood

Minister urges recruiting drive

IAN MCCARTNEY, the Industry Minister, pressed unions to stop harking back to the past and to put their efforts into recruiting members.

At a fringe meeting on Fairness at Work, Mr McCartney said: "Membership is declining. Just blaming it on Thatcherism is not good enough. She has gone and we are still here." He said that unions had to tackle the problem of only one in three workers being a member of a union while 75 per cent of people say that they support unions.

Mr McCartney, whose responsibilities include employment law and the minimum wage, said unions needed to target the service sector where very few workers were union members. His appeal comes as the movement is desperately trying to reverse sliding membership rolls. Numbers have continued to fall despite the election of a Labour Government and now stand at 6.8 million or 30 per cent of the workforce.

Mr McCartney spoke alongside Ross Dunn, a director of the cement producer Blue Circle Industries, in an initiative to promote more partnership between employers and workers. He said companies had to realise that their most important "assets" were their workforces and that they had to work out new ways of managing those assets.

Mr Dunn said partnerships between companies and employees depended on a trust that was often difficult to achieve. He said that when Blue Circle began a partnership more than ten years ago both sides knew what they wanted from the other side but did not necessarily know what they should offer in return.

REPORTS BY:
Christine Buckley
Alasdair Murray
and Jill Sherman

Waddington sale to close two factories

LOWE & BONAR has agreed to pay £67.5 million in cash for Waddington's carton division, in a deal which will result in 200 redundancies in Swindon and Merseyside. The deal will provide 20 per cent of the UK market for cardboard food wrappings and a factory in The Netherlands. It will also make the company Europe's fifth-largest carton producer.

Jim Heilig, the chief executive of Lowe & Bonar, intends to close Waddington's factories in Speke, near Liverpool, and in Swindon — moving production to its own half-utilised plant in Leeds. This will cost £7 million, mainly in payoffs, but Mr Heilig expects the changes to save the company £3 million next year and £6 million the year after that. He estimated the deal will eventually enhance earnings by 3p a share.

Waddington will use the money to bolster its three remaining businesses, and has ruled out making another outright acquisition. It had placed its carton division on the auction block three months ago, and told its bankers to sell to the highest bidder. The acquisition will be put to Lowe & Bonar shareholders on October 13. Shares of Lowe & Bonar added 4p to 205p yesterday and Waddington's rose 9p to 236p.

Alumasc's profits slip

ALUMASC, the engineering and building products company, yesterday reported its first profits downturn for nine years — blaming the strength of sterling and low demand in the public sector. Shares in Alumasc rose by 1p, to 135p, yesterday as the company said that it was making strong progress in rectifying the problems that knocked its pre-tax profits down to £9.58 million, from £14.8 million, in the year to June 30. The results were in line with City expectations. Earnings per share were 17.9p, down from 25.3p. A final dividend of 6.05p holds the total payout at 8.5p.

Hunting in the market

HUNTING, the oil and defence specialist, said yesterday that it was looking acquisitions after raising more than £50 million through a series of disposals. Underlying profits rose to £22.8m (£20.9 million) at the half-way stage. Ken Miller, chief executive, said this was encouraging given the 25 per cent fall in oil prices over the year. Its defence division submitted a bid to run the Army's new communications system, and expects a result shortly. After a £3.6 million loss on the sale of its Cargo Airlines business, headline earnings dropped to 7p (8.7p) per share. An unchanged dividend of 3p is due on November 17.

Investment trust hit

THE FIRST RUSSIAN FRONTIERS investment trust revealed the extent of its suffering on the East European stock markets when it declared first-half capital losses of \$51 million (£31 million) — more than its current value on the London stock market. Shares in the investment trust peaked last November at £17.82 but have since fallen below £3.50 as investors lost confidence in the markets. Pictet Asset Management, the trust's manager, said it had reduced the Russian equities exposure to 38 per cent. In spite of the enormous losses, Pictet took a first-half management fee of £1.68 million.

Unilever unit for sale

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods company, is considering selling its DeGoede-Broer unit, which makes and supplies bakery products in the Benelux region. DeGoede-Broer, which employs 100 people, is a part of Hartog Unie, itself a unit of Unilever Nederland. Unilever said producing the likes of pre-baked goods and tart bases was not part of its core activities. "Unilever is looking for an eventual bidder with better prospects for developing the product range of DeGoede-Broer," Unilever announced in a statement. It added there would be no substantial job losses as a result of a deal.

S Jerome under offer

ALAN JEROME, chairman and chief executive of S Jerome, is to make £245,000 in cash after accepting a £6.3 million takeover bid from rival Worthington. The Yorkshire textiles company has recommended a 45p-a-share bid. It represents a 33 per cent premium to Monday's closing price. John Taylor, who became managing director last October, will make £166,000 from selling his shares. Worthington is only slightly larger than Jerome, but its market capitalisation is five times larger. A cash-and-shares alternative is worth 53.5p a share. Jerome shares rose 11p to 45p yesterday; Worthington's fell 1p to 60p.

Compel still bullish

COMPELGROUP, the information technology services company, yesterday reported a 78 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £5.1 million to £9 million, while sales rose 88 per cent from £112 million to £210 million. Earnings per share rose 33 per cent from 16.4p to 21.5p, and a total dividend of 6.3p, up from 5.4p, will be paid on November 4. Neville Davis, chairman and chief executive, said: "The market remains healthy and we believe that it will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. Our businesses are strong and we believe they will continue to increase their share of this growing market."

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buys	Sells	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.90	Japan Yen	237.05
Austria Sch	20.51	Malta	0.669
Belgium Fr	61.52	Netherlands Gld	2.361
Canada \$	2.640	New Zealand \$	3.30
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8811	Norway Kr	13.21
Denmark Dkr	11.39	Portugal Esc	202.47
Egypt	5.92	S Africa Rd	10.93
France Fr	9.16	Spain Ptas	253.70
Germany DM	9.95	Sweden Kr	13.79
Greece Dr	2.991	Switzerland Fr	2.489
Hong Kong \$	5.11	Turkey Lira	4761.74
Iceland Kr	13.80	USA \$	1.785
India Rupee	1.29		
Israel Sh	6.90		
Italy Lira	2.969		

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Co-op Bank to offer Isa through stores

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CO-OPERATIVE BANK pledged yesterday to offer the individual savings account (Isa), the Government's controversial tax-free investment plan, through Co-op stores from April.

Even though the bank has concerns about the timing of the Isa's launch, Mervyn Pedley, chief executive, believes he can reach between seven and ten million people through the varied outlets of the Co-operative movement.

His stance is in marked contrast to other retailers, most notably supermarket chains Tesco and J Sainsbury, which have threatened to spurn the Isa unless the Treasury revises the terms of its original proposals.

Mr Pedley, who chairs the financial services committee of the Co-op movement, said the bank was teaming up with Co-operative Insurance Services to offer both maxi and mini-versions of the Isa

through supermarkets and other stores.

"The industry would have preferred a little bit longer to prepare for the Isa, but we will be there in April," Mr Pedley said, adding that the bank was unlikely to provide the life assurance element because it was capped at £1,000.

The bank, wholly owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, is engaged in a number of joint ventures with other parts of the movement, including a trial to put automatic tellers into convenience stores run by independent societies in northwest England and Leeds.

Half-year pre-tax profits at the bank rose 22 per cent to £40.2 million. Although staff costs edged up 0.5 per cent and other costs increased 6 per cent principally because of year 2000 expenses, the bank's cost-income ratio fell below 70 per cent for the first time.

Lending rose 15 per cent, reflecting a 30 per cent growth in personal lending, while the corporate sector remained flat. Bad debts jumped 38 per cent, but Co-op Bank said trouble loans still consisted of just 1.3 per cent of total lending.

Co-op Bank also announced a pilot project to place desktop automatic tellers in its convenience stores to serve isolated and remote communities.

Scotia falls as shares are sold

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Scotia Holdings, the drug development company, collapsed by 14 per cent to 162p as David Horrobin, its former chief executive, and another large shareholder offloaded more than 2 million shares.

The unidentified investor sold 1.4 million shares at 120p — a big discount to yesterday's opening price of 189p. Dr Horrobin, the company's founder who left earlier this year after a row, sold 940,000 shares held for Wimberley Investments, a company that he controls for an undisclosed price. Dr Horrobin still has 12.2 million shares, representing a 15.7 per cent stake.

Scotia shares traded above 700p last year before it announced it was unable to secure marketing approval for Tarabatic, a drug to treat the nerve damage associated with diabetes.

Rob Dow, formerly with Roche, has taken over as chief executive and has cut back the company's previously diverse range of research to concentrate on cancer. Scotia encountered another setback when tests revealed its treatment for breast pain seemed to be no better than a placebo.

GKN-Alvis deal puts Vickers under pressure

BY ADAM JONES

THE pressure on Vickers to find a partner for its battle tank arm intensified yesterday as Alvis and GKN laid out the terms for a merger of their armoured vehicle businesses.

The deal will lead to the closure of the Alvis factory in Coventry, with all manufacturing moving to the GKN plant in Telford, and the loss of about 150 jobs.

GKN and Alvis said the merger would enable them to keep up with industry consolidation across Europe, giving them bulk to match that of Krauss Maffei and Wegmann of Germany, and Giat of France. They estimated cost savings at £5 million a year.

Vickers, the only other significant UK player in this field, refused to say yesterday whether it would try to merge its own tank business with the new group — or make a bid for Alvis with the proceeds of the sale of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and Cosworth.

Nick Prest, who will continue as Alvis chairman, suggested there was room for more domestic consolidation. "This is not necessarily the end of the process in the UK," he said. GKN's armoured vehicle business, which had faced the

threat of job losses because of a lack of orders, will become part of Alvis. GKN will receive a 29.9 per cent holding in the enlarged Alvis group and has undertaken not to increase or reduce its stake for 18 months.

The total value of the deal to GKN is £77 million at yesterday's closing prices. Alvis shares fell from 197p to 195p. GKN fell from 88p to 87p.

After completion, which is scheduled for October 19, GKN will subscribe £15 million in cash for Alvis loan notes. The deal will dilute Alvis earnings in 1999 because of the short-term weakness of GKN's order book and the cost of running two sites. The reorganisation will lead to an £8.5 million charge in the Alvis accounts.

The two companies said there would be minimal overlap between existing products, with the exception of the Alvis CV-90 and the GKN Warrior, which are currently competing against each other for an order in Switzerland.

Up to 50 of the 200 staff from the Alvis plant in Coventry are likely to be transferred to Telford. Some voluntary redundancies at Telford are expected also.

Anna Murdoch leaves board of News Corp

RUPERT MURDOCH's estranged wife is leaving the board of directors of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times.

Anna Murdoch, who filed for divorce in July, has been a non-executive director of News Corp since 1990. Her retirement was announced in News Corp's 1998 annual report.

When news of the couple's separation broke in April, News Corp said that Mrs Murdoch would remain a director of the company.

"Anna's support has been enormously helpful to me in what I must admit is a demanding and turbulent career," Mr Murdoch wrote in the annual report.

"Her contribution to News Corp notably includes, but goes far beyond, our three children, Elisabeth, Lachlan and James, all now working in the company and making significant contributions."

Mrs Murdoch, 54, cited irreconcilable differences in filing for divorce.

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12/10/98

Undermining Chinese walls



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Judges can be a cynical bunch but this is too much. One Justice Pumphrey has looked at a Chinese wall and pronounced it leaky. And this wall erected with all the skills that one would expect of a top firm of accountants such as KPMG.

City practitioners, whether bankers, brokers or accountants, have become as practised at putting up walls as any builder. It is crucial for clients that the walls are water-tight or, heaven forfend, information gleaned on one side of a transaction might permeate through to people in another part of the organisation who might be able to put it to good use. Clients would take a dim view of such behaviour and so would the regulators.

Only a cynic would suggest that the Chinese version bears more resemblance to the Derbyshire dry stone wall than the heavily cemented barricades that surround Scarisbrick's manor house. Yet that is the suggestion: that even in the best ordered organisations, there is seepage.

The case that has been brought to the attention of Justice Pumphrey involved the colourful Prince Jefri of Brunei and accountants KPMG. The accountants have long been privy to the activities of the Brunei Investment Agency, where the Sultan's younger brother used to call the shots. Prince Jefri's interests ranged far beyond the normal scope of national coffers. His passion for gifts of dubious taste went far beyond what is stocked at Asprey.

The scale of his spending, coupled with some unfortunate investments, has given the Sultan some concern of late. Being toppled from the perch of the richest man in the world by a computer nerd is likely to put any potentate into ill humour and have them demanding investigations.

So who else would the Sultan turn to but trusty accountants KPMG? No doubt he asked them if they would be prepared to take on Project Jemma, as it was tastefully called, without making use of any of the information the firm had gleaned about Prince Jefri's activities while it was working for the BIA. And no doubt KPMG crossed its corporate heart and said no, of course, it would make sure that any of that information was buried well behind the Chinese wall, no matter how useful or relevant it might be. No, it would start from scratch on Project Jemma.

Well, the judge was not entirely convinced. His ruling, casting its implicit question mark over the impermeability of Chinese walls, does have worrying implications for the major accounting

firms - and their clients. Now that there are fewer, but bigger, accountancy practices, clients will be limited in their choice of firms capable of, for instance, carrying out audits and advising on corporate activity. It is important for the firms that clients believe in the Chinese wall keeping important information out of the wrong view. The assurances, like the cement, will have to be laid on with a trowel.

Taylor-made, but with few suitors

Clearly there are some who rate the abilities of Jonathan Taylor. Booker looks in tatters after being jilted for a second time, but its chairman has an array of other directorships at leading UK companies. Even though Booker has been without a chief executive since March, and Taylor seems likely to be left in charge for a little longer yet, he has still found time to fit in the chairmanship of Ellis & Everard, main board directorships at MEPC and Tate & Lyle, and the chairmanship of Equitable Life. He is also helping out on the board of the Royal Agricultural College and Paintings in Hospitals, which presumably espouses the worthy aim of brightening up institutional walls.

Taylor is only a part-time chairman of Booker, hence his miserly remuneration package last year of just £124,000. But investors are beginning to wonder just how thin directors should be spreading themselves if they are to devote to companies the attention they need. Jonathan Taylor is a mere beginner by the standards of Professor Roland Smith and Lord Marshall, but it seems fair to say that Booker might have benefited from rather more of his attention. If the converse is true, then perhaps he should not have been there at all.

The decision by Budgens to back away from any deal with the company has only added fuel to fears that the situation within the company is even more depressing than the recent run of profit warnings has indicated. To lose one suitor, in the shape of Somerfield, was unfortunate, but to lose a second... The Budgens share price reacted with the opposite of disappointment when the collapse of the merger talks was revealed. Blaming the collapsing Booker share price was not entirely convincing. Neither was Taylor's effort to try to portray the recent attempts to find a saviour as merely time-wasting distractions, deflecting him from the main business. Booker looks in a sorry state. Its cash-and-carry business may have attractions for second-tier grocers in search of extra buying power, but it could be an expensive distraction, as John von Spreckelsens may wisely have concluded. What the company really needs is decent management.

The previous chief executive paid the price for the group's poor performance when he left abruptly in March.

Taylor joined the company in 1999 and was chief executive from 1994 until 1993. He certainly knows the business, but was he paying enough attention?

Time for a little co-operation

The Co-operative Bank has carved a unique niche as an ethical banker. This statement is no reflection on the morals of its rivals, merely an assessment of its clever market positioning.

The success of the bank has been in stark contrast to the leaden-footedness of the retail side of the co-operative movement. But the Co-op, in its various guises, still accounts for a valuable slice of the high street. When Andrew Regan tried, and spectacularly failed, to take over the Co-op two years ago, he had the right target, only the wrong method.

Now it seems that the Co-op Bank may be ready to help to shake up the stores a bit. Yesterday it declared its enthusiasm for

providing Isas, itself a somewhat surprising comment, given the question marks still hanging over the Government's new savings scheme. But it also said it would market the plans through Co-op stores. Other supermarket operators take a highly cautious view of Isas and may be surprised to see the Co-op shops overtaking them.

Co-op customers, once accustomed to the idea of "the divi", may be attracted by the Isa savings scheme. Like the divi, it could provide a way of cementing customers to the stores, slowing down the inexorable drift of shoppers towards the supermarket giants. If the Co-op Bank is prepared to think positively about selling the Isa, the least the Treasury could do is hasten to explain exactly what it is.

Bowing out?

THE champagne will be flowing around Hanover Square as partners in Healey & Baker celebrate the £70 million sale of their business to Americans. That three of the top property partnerships have decided to sell out in recent months rekindles thoughts of those estate agents who were persuaded - very easily - to sell to clever financial institutions such as Lloyds Bank and Nationwide just at the top of the market. Can it be long before the partners at Jones Lang Wootton are persuaded that it is time to bow out?

Booker is jilted again as Budgens ends talks

By FRASER NELSON

BOOKER yesterday lost its second takeover suitor in two weeks as Jon von Spreckelsens, chief executive of Budgens, pulled out of bid talks (see Commentary, this page).

Booker shares fell 28p to a new low of 177.5p as most City analysts abandoned hope of another takeover approach.

Jonathan Taylor, chairman of Booker, said that both companies had seen strong logic in a merger - but had been unable to work out a formula for an all-share reverse takeover of Budgens by Booker.

Mr Taylor said: "The prime issue was the impossibility of finding appropriate terms for an all-share transaction when our shares had fallen through the floor. At these levels, I believe, Booker shareholders would have been under-

represented in any combined group. The value equation was impossible to achieve."

He said that Budgens pulled out first - but only because was obliged to give news at yesterday's annual shareholder meeting.

Mr von Spreckelsens, who would have been chief executive of the enlarged group, backed Mr Taylor's version of events. He said: "Disappointment does not come in to it. We had very amicable discussions, but we could not go through with it in the end."

Both companies denied suggestions of a black hole in Booker's accounts - rumours that emerged after Somerfield pulled out of a merger two weeks ago.

Mr Taylor said Booker's priority is to appoint a chief executive to fill the gap left when Charles Bowen resigned six months ago. He said: "We have a shortlist of three, and we have a frontrunner. It will happen in the next month."



Taylor: deal failed on terms

Booker is in the closing stages of selling its fish-processing business and Daehnfeldt, the seeds business. Mr Taylor suggested that the disposals could well be made within weeks.

The City said that Booker could be worth 200p a share if broken up by one of the finance houses understood to have been circling it while it was in talks with Somerfield.

One analyst said: "There was so little logic in the Budgens deal that no one really thought it would go through - so we are not entirely surprised. The shares may flush out another bid - Booker may be a dog, but it's not a bankrupt dog which its valuation kind of suggests."

Mr von Spreckelsens played down suggestions that he was hungry for a more challenging role, saying: "Budgens is still expanding very fast, and it's a very enjoyable job for me." The shares rose 34p to 73.5p.

City questions bad-debt move by Capital

By JASON NISSE

CAPITAL Corporation, the casino group that last year was mired in rows about Stock Exchange and internal investigations, has run into another spat, this time about its accounting practices.

The group has changed the way it deals with its bad debts, so that it nets off the losses and the recoveries and adds the resulting figure to its turnover. This change was revealed with its results for the half year to July 12, which showed a £1.46 million fall in turnover to £31.8 million.

City analysts questioned the change - which is estimated to have added as much as £1 million to Capital's half-year figures - and some suggested that it may breach the Companies Act provisions on netting off costs and expenses.

Andrew Chandler, Capital's

finance director, denied any breach of the Act and said the change was to bring the company in line with its peers.

However, Barry Hardy, finance director of its main competitor, London Clubs International (LCI), said its accounting policies were different, with bad debts from gamblers separated as a charge. LCI made an unsuccessful bid for Capital last year.

Capital had a bad half, with a fall-off in business from Far Eastern and Middle Eastern customers adding to the pain of a £1.1 million increase in betting levy. Pre-tax profits fell from £6.84 million to £5.01 million and earnings from 7.34p to 3.18p. There is an unchanged dividend of 1.0p.

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Reduced costs boost Dorling Kindersley

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

PETER KINDERSLEY, founder of Dorling Kindersley, said yesterday the international reference and educational publisher had reached a turning point by cutting its cost base and hitting financial targets.

The company, whose financial performance has not been as sparkling as some of its products in the past few years, has been hit by the strength of the pound, turmoil in the American book-selling trade and difficulties in international product licensing.

Yesterday, it announced slightly better than expected pre-tax profits of £9 million for the year to June 30, against £7.7 million last time. Reorganisation costs were £2.5 million.

Apart from a strong autumn list including the DK Illustrated Oxford Dictionary and two

Star Wars books, Mr Kindersley said savings from the restructuring of £3million to £4 million this year would drop to the bottom line.

Lorna Tibbani, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said: "The products were always good but it was like blinking in the dark, hardly anyone saw. There is a new focus on distribution and marketing."

She is looking for pre-tax profits of £10.5 million this year. The share price rose 25p on the results to close at 205p.

Turnover rose from £180 million to £184 million, helping headline earnings to 8p (6p). The dividend is held at 4.6p.

Dixon signals advance



Paul Dixon, rear, and Garry Cuthbertson, finance director of Dixon Motors, yesterday

DIXON MOTORS, the car and motorcycle dealer, lifted pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 by 68 per cent to £6.7 million, despite what it described as an "uncertain market" (Matthew Barbour writes).

The company, which bought its third Ford dealership last month, saw new car sales grow by more than 17 per cent on a like-for-like basis, against an increase of 7.8 per cent nationally. Sales of used cars grew by more than 20 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

However, Paul Dixon, chief executive, said that the used-

car market had a "challenging" second quarter, with supply exceeding demand, especially in the nearly new market, resulting in a significant fall in resale values.

The company took advantage of the growing popularity of mopeds and motorcycles with the £15 million acquisition of privately owned Cosmopolitan Motors in July.

Sales of mopeds and other commuter bikes are growing even faster than sales of motorbikes, especially in major cities," Mr Dixon said.

"Our policy of investing in new car and motorcycle dealerships, many of which are

still to reach to maturity, gives us confidence for the future."

Mr Dixon injected a note of caution by saying that current sales of new cars had started to slow by the middle of August despite retail initiatives and incentives from the company and the carmakers.

"There is no doubt that the August market was affected by the upward trend in interest rates and the uncertain worldwide economic prospects," Mr Dixon said.

Turnover rose 84 per cent to £18 million, from £175 million. Earnings per share rose to 14.9p (12.4p). The interim dividend is to be 3p (2.5p).

Oil price forces Saga into write-off

By CARL MORTIMED
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS EDITOR

SAGA PETROLEUM, the Norwegian energy group which surprised the market in 1996 with a \$1.23 billion (£735 million) bid for Santa Fe Energy, has become the first major North Sea oil group to write down its assets in response to the weak oil price.

The Norwegian energy company is taking a NOK2.5 billion (£200 million) hit to its profits in the current year, mainly due to the oil price and disappointing exploration results. Saga is now forecasting a loss of NOK1.6 billion for the full year.

Diderik Schnitler, the new chief executive, blamed the Santa Fe deal for the write-off and said the price paid was too high. Santa Fe was auctioned by Kuwait Petroleum Company and Saga based its winning bid on an \$18.19 per barrel oil price compared with yesterday's price of less than \$13.

Saga's write-off, which includes some NOK1.3 billion in exploration acreage, is likely to be followed by other companies that acquired acreage in recent years. Lasmø has already warned that it might write down some of the North Sea fields acquired from Ultramar and Premier Oil is expected to write down exploration acreage.

Receivers called into Utility Cable

By CHRIS AYRES

THE embarrassing saga of Utility Cable, the former investment trust transformed into a road-digging venture for gas, water and cable television companies, ended in disaster yesterday when receivers were called in.

Luke Johnson, the PizzaExpress entrepreneur who held a 5.5 per cent stake, is near who held several million pounds through the company. Mr Johnson said: "I thought the company, Mr Johnson said, had no idea this was happening. I'm sad and find it all very depressing."

Mr Johnson refused to blame manage-

ment for the failure, or to comment on whether its shares were over-hyped. The company's demise will also come as a severe blow to Brian McCann, its chief executive, who was hired to turn it around.

Utility Cable was worth £57 million when it was formed in 1994, but was valued at just £3.3 million when its shares were suspended on Monday. Its problems ranged from the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire in Northern Ireland, to technical hitches in Britain and the general slowdown of the cable television market.

Although Mr Johnson recently increased his stake in Utility Cable, he re-

signed as a non-executive director of the company last year. Finbarr O'Connell, joint administrative receiver and a partner at Grant Thornton, yesterday said it was likely that Utility Cable would be broken-up and sold off within the next two weeks. "I have already been contacted by a huge amount of people," Mr O'Connell said yesterday.

The company's RS Kennedy and Crawshaw Robbins divisions are likely to be sold to gas and water utilities respectively, while a number of cable television operators have put in bids for the contracts held by its JF Fitzpatrick subsidiary.

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Abbey National overtakes rivals as FTSE edges up

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Year	Percent of Population Aged 65 and Over
1950	7
1960	8
1970	9
1980	10
1990	11
2000	12
2010	13
2020	14
2030	15
2040	16
2050	18

Anthony

Brown must depart from orthodoxy

When Gordon Brown flies into Tokyo this morning for talks with Japan's Finance Minister and central bank governor, he will be doing a great disservice if he simply parrots the Group of Seven's line on the Asian crisis. Although the G7 had a perfect right to attempt to spur Japan's ruling and warring classes into action, its prescriptions are inadequate to tackle what has become a full-blown debt trap, compounded by an implosion of consumer confidence just when mobilising consumer savings is what is needed to haul Japan back to health.

Its advice not only lacks the radicalism that Japan's body politic so patently needs. It is also too devoted to the particular brand of free market orthodoxy pursued notably by the International Monetary Fund and the US Treasury.

Mr Brown has shown no sign of departing from this party line.

The G7's urgings, which may actually prove counterproductive as Japanese politicians become fed

up with being lectured by foreigners, cover three areas. First has been an effort to prevent an even more dramatic devaluation of the yen. While this partly reflects fears of further pressure on other Asian economies to go through another round of competitive devaluation, it is also motivated by a desire to prevent Japan's problems leading to soaring trade deficits at home, particularly in America.

There is a potent argument in favour of letting the yen slide because Japan's return to health is a far bigger positive for Far Eastern economies than an intensification of short-term competitive pressures is an evil. The G7 will not play ball. Indeed, the only decisive policy response to Japan's problems so far has been some one-off intervention to stop the yen falling by the US Treasury.

The second thrust of G7 advice

has involved repeated calls to Japan to reflate its economy which Tokyo, as we know, has failed to do to anything like the degree necessary. However, anything more radical doesn't feature in G7 advice and for an obvious reason. For years, industrialised countries have been preaching the virtues of fiscal discipline. How then can they lecture Japan to raise its budget deficit when it is already, as a proportion of GDP, twice the Maastricht treaty limit?

The third source of pressure has been G7 demands that Japan moves decisively to restructure its banking system. The conventional wisdom is that "crony capitalism", the catch-all cliché for Asia's liquidity crisis, must not be bailed out, that Japan's banks must be forced to fail and as quickly as possible.

The trouble with this approach is that a programme of shutting

down banks will lead to an even more catastrophic and permanent collapse of consumer confidence in Japan.

Japan's savings rate was relatively stable until Nissan Mutual went under. Japan's first life assurance failure. It soared and then showed signs of dipping. Then Yamaichi Securities failed and saving spiked sharply upwards again. Saving slipped a little recently but history has proved that another big finan-

cial or corporate failure will send it skywards again.

Just think what the Japanese consumer, used to relative prosperity and security, is now facing. Economic stagnation and now crisis has effectively ended the security of virtual life-time employment. As corporate bankruptcies surge, unemployment is soaring and more than 5 per cent next year, higher even than during the 1974 oil crisis. Incomes in manufacturing are now falling for the first time in decades.

There is a total lack of trust in banks. On top of this, there is a bulging section of the population nearing retirement with large savings that the Government would like to see spent who, looking at the rising budget deficit, are scared that the Government will renege on their pensions.

The last thing that Japan needs

is the forced close-down of many of its banks, however strong the arguments for flushing out concealed bad debt and bankrupt banks being kept artificially in business.

Japan has, of course, floated a plan for a bridge bank, an institution similar to the Resolution Trust Corp in America that bought up and sold on hundreds of failed savings and loans (\$8.6). There are real doubts about this, not least because Japanese opposition parties are still vehemently against using public money to bail out banks. Further, American experience, as David Folkerts-Landau and Peter Garber, of Deutsche Bank, note, suggests that bridge banks are normally failures. Banks that are put under effective receivership are very rarely restored to health and have to be liquidated in any case.

Given the severity of Japan's situation, something much more radi-

cal should be considered. The bridge bank is quasi-nationalisation. Graham Turner, of Tokai Bank in London, notes, but still a halfway house. He suggests the Government should consider the option of full-scale nationalisation, coupled with an order that banks lend at zero interest (compared with real rates of up to 4.5 per cent now).

Of course, such a notion is anathema not only to the G7 but also to Japan's opposition parties. But gone is the time for half-heartedness and delay. Japan's non-performing loans have risen, on official estimates, from ¥128 trillion (£5.7 billion) in the summer of 1993 to ¥77 trillion in March 1998, a worse rate of deterioration than in the case of S&Ls. At this rate, Deutsche Bank says, "it will not take long to reach the order of magnitude of national product".

It is to be hoped that Mr Brown today shows a sensitivity to a sovereign nation's right to make its own policies, a sense of the gravity of the situation and a departure from orthodox economics which are no longer adequate to the task.

Why China can ride out the Asian crisis

Alasdair Murray analyses a range of special factors that have helped Beijing to keep devaluation at bay while more advanced economies suffer

Friday night in the Hotpoint club in central Beijing and young affluent Chinese rub shoulders with a smattering of Western students and expatriate workers. House music blares from the speakers, the drinks are overpriced, over-eager waiters rush to take part in a dancing competition.

It is a scene resembling that in any big city in the West but this kind of hedonistic abandon would have been unthinkable ten years ago, let alone in the dark days of the Cultural Revolution. In theory, the club exemplifies the sort of entrepreneurial spirit that the Government is keen to encourage. Yet the Government is unhappy. The club is owned by the army and the profits are finding their way into back pockets of the generals, not some rising businessman. The Government has promised to crack down on the business interests of the army and police. Despite the rhetoric, it is finding that its efforts to free the economy from the State are causing unanticipated turmoil. In the West, China has become synonymous with only one issue — devaluation. With the rest of Asia in the grip of a devastating financial crisis, analysts have become increasingly sceptical of China's ability to remain aloof from the region's problems.

China seems to share many of the symptoms of economic malaise with its neighbours. Exports to the Asian region are down, economic growth appears to be stagnating and foreign investment is drying up. China has also suffered its own property collapse. China's mega-cities — Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong — have witnessed a vast building boom in the past few years, changing them almost out of recognition.

In Shanghai some two million people have been relocated for development such as the 84-storey Jinmau building in Pudong, built at a cost of \$540 million (£320 million). The building towers over the European settlement at the Bund, once the base of Western capitalism in China, a physical symbol of China's new drive to modernise. Like many of the other developments in City, the Jinmau lies mostly empty, a victim of Shanghai's vast commercial property glut. China-based experts, however, are less convinced that the country is on

the verge of an Asian-style crisis. They accept that it is not immune from the surrounding crisis, but say parallels such as the commercial property collapse are misleading. China is not Hong Kong, and commercial property is only a tiny proportion of the total economy.

Above all, they believe that devaluation is a red herring. Exports to Asia have fallen, but no more than could be expected given the huge drop in growth in the region. In contrast, exports to the West have continued to grow and the country is still running a healthy trade surplus across the first half of the year. China's exports to the US rose 18.4 per cent in the first half of the year while exports to the EU have risen 25 per cent. China is in no danger of a massive outflow of investment because the yuan currency remains only partially convertible. In fact, China may have as much to lose as it would gain from devaluation. Most economists believe that such a move would simply trigger a further round of competitive devaluations in the region. Even without it, China would win little competitive labour remains the cheapest in the region.

For the Government, devaluation is a political not an economic weapon. It has won plaudits from the West and, in particular, America for its firm stance against devaluation. Analysts believe that the country's sensible economic behaviour will prove a useful bargaining tool as it seeks to join the World Trade Organisation and attempts to remove the last few US trade sanctions.

Amid the discussion about the pressures for devaluation, the fact that China is still a predominantly rural country in the throes of reform appears to have been forgotten. The country possesses a huge loss-making state industrial sector. Only 300 companies are believed to make a profit, which leaves some 100,000 enterprises to be propped up by the Government. The state banking sector is riddled with bad loans. Add in the natural disaster created by the recent floods, which is estimated to have affected some 300 million people and is expected to knock at least 0.5 percentage points off GDP growth, and it becomes clear why devaluation is not uppermost in the minds of the Chinese leaders. Zhu Ron-



The people of Beijing are being encouraged to be entrepreneurial while the Government retains considerable control

ji, the Prime Minister, is desperate to continue liberalising the economy but is fearful that the very process of reform — bankrupting thousands of state-owned enterprises and making millions unemployed — will prove too painful for the economy to bear.

In the shadow of the Great Wall, north of Beijing, lies a glimpse of the two faces of China. The steep wooded limestone hills, which have provided the City with a natural defence for thousands of years, are scarred by quarrying. The occasional boom echoes across the hills, shaking the windows of buildings in the valley below, as quarriers blast the rock face. When the state-owned cement factory is working, the valley is choked with smoke and dust from the plant's primitive kiln chimneys. For the moment, however, the valley is clear because the factory lacks the funds to operate. No one is sure when it will re-open.

Just down the road, however, is a second cement factory owned by Lafarge, the French building materials company. It uses the latest production techniques, leaving little pollution evidence that it is even in operation. The plant manager jokes that Lafarge customers still sometimes turn up at the neighbouring state-owned factory convinced by the absence of smoke that the Lafarge plant is not working. It has made a successful start, and is operating

well above nominal capacity. Lafarge would like to add a second line to lift capacity to Western levels. It has a 550-strong workforce, far more than necessary to operate the lines, but has resisted making large-scale redundancies. A large proportion of the long-established workforce is still officially registered as farmers. They would receive only minuscule unemployment benefit because the Government would say that they still have farms to provide subsistence. Lafarge hopes that the second line will take up the slack, but for the moment workers have been shifted into auxiliary services.

The Chinese Government is officially in favour of Lafarge expanding the plant. Yet the process of issuing a new licence has been long and tortuous as it tries to balance its commitment to reform with its fear that Lafarge will quickly put its inefficient state-owned competitors out of business. Lafarge is confident of ultimately winning a licence but has effectively had to provide its own solution to the Government's dilemma. It is offering to supply limestone from its own quarry to enable the neighbouring plant to become a rock crushing operation and remain alive.

Officially, unemployment in China stands at 3 per cent. However, like all Chinese statistics, this needs to be taken

with a pinch of salt. The figure excludes some 900 million people registered as farmers, many of whom like the workers at the Lafarge cement factory have long since ceased working on the land.

No one is quite sure what kind of growth rate is needed to keep unemployment levels reasonably stable. The Government itself has set an 8 per cent target for GDP. Some pessimists believe that this year the Chinese economy could record zero growth, but most regional analysts argue the country should achieve a rate of about 4 to 6 per cent. Kwok Chi-chen Kwok, chief economist at Standard Chartered, is one of the local economists who believes that the Government will meet its target, pointing to an upturn in consumer sales and the rate of fixed-asset investment as evidence that China is pulling out of a slowdown.

There is some cause to take an optimistic approach to China's prospects. Paradoxically, the vestiges of the control economy that are at the root of its problems also provide a short-term solution. China is protected from the speculative attacks that have felled its neighbours, leaving it free to use its control levers to try to reflate the economy. The Government is issuing \$46 billion of bonds this year to fund some huge infrastructure investments. The beauty of this plan is that the Government has ordered the

state-controlled banks to buy the bonds using their huge reserves of savings. Such blatant intervention would be unacceptable in a free-market economy and there are serious doubts about the viability of some of the chosen projects.

The Government is also keen to encourage rapid development in the residential housing market. Unlike commercial property, this sector has severe shortages. Many of those living in towns and cities endure conditions that are among the most cramped in the world. Some 90 per cent of homes are

state-controlled. The banks are being encouraged to provide mortgages, state-owned enterprises have been told to sell their housing stock to raise funds while the city councils are busy pushing up rents. Chi Lo, senior international economist at HSBC, believes that housing market reforms could generate as much as \$150 billion, or 7 per cent of projected GDP, in the next two years.

China is also relaxing its rigid labour migration laws, originally designed to prevent a mass exodus from the land, but now effectively creating a huge shadow workforce in the big cities. Shanghai, for instance, is estimated to have three million residents who should not officially be in the city. The partial loosening of the law is designed to permit the more economically successful of the migrants to take an economic stake in their new homes.

Mr Lo expects the housing market to be boosted by three further rate cuts over the next year. China is already experiencing heavy deflation — retail prices fell 3.2 per cent in July — providing ample opportunity to cut rates further. They stand at about 12 per cent in real terms.

The flipside of these expansionary plans is that the pace of China's other reform plans has been slowed. The banks are estimated to have bad loans worth \$210 billion — some 25 per cent of their loan books. To avoid a catastrophic collapse, the Government has stepped in to guarantee all the assets and liabilities of state banks and issued a \$32 billion bond to recapitalise their balance sheets. The banks are under pressure to commercialise their operations, but bad loans are being written off at just \$9 billion a year. The Government's goal is for the newly created private banking sector to take up the slack, allowing it

to gradually wind down the state sector's operations.

The reform of state-owned industry is also following a softly, softly strategy. The Government has targeted the largest 1,000 companies to remain in state hands, although most are likely to be merged and reformed into *chaebol*-like organisations. The vast rump of the sector will slowly be left to its own devices — to become corporations, merge, even go bankrupt — although the word privatisation is never mentioned.

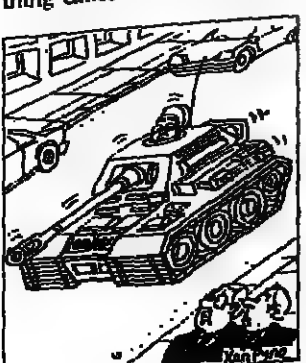
It is a vast and complex undertaking. As Mr Lo says: "The Government is walking a tightrope between using inflation to bail out the system or cutting debts, prompting further devaluation." Yet experts in the East are confident that China will survive the process. Unlike some countries, in the region, China has a stable and competent Government. Its one-party system may well be part of the problem, but for now it allows China's political class to weather a higher pain threshold than the rest of Asia.

And it is not just economists who have faith in China's future. Lafarge remains sufficiently confident of the Government's intentions to have committed a further \$150 million last week to a new cement plant in Sichuan. Overall foreign direct investment may have fallen, hardly surprising given the high levels of investment from elsewhere in Asia, but the total is still expected to reach \$30 billion this year. The money has also been concentrated in larger projects, suggesting that Western companies, like Lafarge, are not just testing the water, but making a long-term commitment to the country. As one businessman said: "China should not be underestimated. The country still works."

Arabian nets

THE French Government starts the privatisation of Credit Lyonnais, the disaster-prone bank, this week and some clever computer hacker is already causing the authorities huge embarrassment by flashing pornographic images on what appears to be the bank's official website.

I am not going to give the address, but play around with variations on the bank's name and you come up with something called the Arabian Net.



"Alvist No it's Eddie George on his way to the TUC"

promising "nudity and heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual and transsexual sexual situations", which certainly appears to cover most of the waterfront. As the saying goes, at this stage I made my electronic excuses and left the Web, but an expert tells me that someone has registered the website and then linked it with a pornographic one somewhere else, a job of only a few minutes for a trained nerd.

The Credit Lyonnais people in London say the offending site was first identified two weeks ago in France, and they are trying to have it shut down. They claim this sort of thing is terribly common. It happens, but it is normally the result of corporate blackmail, and CL says no approach has been made, so this is probably just mischief-making.

GOOD news for those of us who gain enjoyment from the daily political manoeuvring surrounding City elections. Anthony Bull, who has served



as one kind of councillor or another for almost 30 years and is a long-time opponent of the regime, has decided to run for sheriff's office.

This is the step before becoming Lord Mayor. Despite his seniority — 14 years an Alderman — Bull has regularly been blackballed, on the strange grounds that the Aldermen themselves can decide, against the run of the evidence, who is the most senior. I hear Bull may at last be on his moment of glory in next summer's election, and therefore may make it to Lord Mayor. With the whole nonsense

about to be updated in the long-awaited franchise reforms, it seems the Old Guard might have grown tired of shutting him out. We shall see.

Ladies last

GILL CARRICK of City headhunters Goddard Kay Rogers is less than pleased by a letter that confirms that she and 11 other "ladies" — the club's words — are not eligible for the £35,000 payout that male members of the RAC are getting from the Cendant takeover.

All this is true — in a roundabout way — Carrick was encouraged to join 14 years ago, when women were barred, so the only way she could join was to become a corporate member. Such are not eligible for the payout, the High Court has ruled.

The RAC says she and the others are not losing out because of their gender, but because those were the rules. These have since been changed. Except there is a catch. So recent was the change that no female applicants, corporate or otherwise, could be processed before the Cendant offer. So none are eligible for the money. Bizarre, in 1998, but true.

Derailed

HEAVEN knows why anyone would wish to promote Richard Branson when he is so obviously up to the job himself, but Ken White, a civil servant, is in trouble after painting the Virgin Trains livery on the side of his car. "Our main concern is that your use of the logo may imply this vehicle is endorsed by the Virgin Group," says an official letter. White is unrepentant. It may be his choice of vehicle. The livery is on his three-wheeled Robin Reliant.

MARTIN WALLER



Virgin does not encourage others to use its livery

TENDER OFFER BY THE ISRAEL FUND PLC

(the "Company") to repurchase up to 61,250,780 of its ordinary shares of US\$0.10 each ("Ordinary Shares"), representing 40 per cent of the existing issued share capital of the Company, at a price per Ordinary Share of 98 per cent of the formula asset value per Ordinary Share as at 13th November, 1998 (the "Repurchase Price").

The Tender Offer is open to Qualifying Shareholders, being those shareholders on the register or deemed to be on the register at the close of business on 25th September, 1998 (the "Tender Offer Record Date"), and will close (unless extended) at 3.00 p.m. on 30th September, 1998 (the "Closing Date").

Summary of the terms and conditions of the Tender Offer

Under the Tender Offer, each Qualifying Shareholder is invited to sell Ordinary Shares to the Company on the following basis:

- each Qualifying Shareholder will be entitled to sell to the Company his "Entitled Amount", being such number of Ordinary Shares, rounded down to the nearest whole number, as represents 40 per cent of the number of such Shareholder's holding entered on the Company's register on the Tender Offer Record Date (subject to such percentage being scaled down equally amongst Qualifying Shareholders to take account of any Ordinary Shares issued by the Company on the exercise of any Warrants prior to the Closing Date, so that the aggregate number of Ordinary Shares which may be repurchased by the Company pursuant to the Tender Offer shall not exceed 61,250,780 Ordinary Shares); and
- a maximum and minimum facility is available under which Qualifying Shareholders may tender Ordinary Shares in excess of their Entitled Amount; such excess tenders will be satisfied to the extent that other Qualifying Shareholders have not taken up all or any part of their Entitled Amount, *pro rata* to the amount in excess of the Entitled Amount tendered (rounded down to the nearest whole number of Ordinary Shares).

The Tender Offer is conditional upon the following occurring prior to 28th February, 1999: (i) confirmation of the cancellation of the Company's share premium account by the court and such cancellation becoming effective; (ii) the passing of a special resolution to approve the Tender Offer and to authorise the Company to enter into the contract to purchase the tendered Ordinary Shares at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for 3.00 p.m. on 20th October, 1998 (or any adjournment thereof) (the "EGM"); and (iii) the despatch of the compensation due to Warrant holders following the cancellation of the Warrants under the terms and conditions of the Warrants (together the "Conditions"). At any time before the completion of the repurchases of Ordinary Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, the Company reserves the right, in certain circumstances, in its absolute discretion, to terminate the Tender Offer.

The number of Ordinary Shares tendered under the Tender Offer is expected to be announced by the Company by 10.00 a.m. on 5th October, 1998. A list of tendering shareholders together with the form of purchase contract will be available for inspection at the Company's registered office at Princes Court, 7 Princes Street, London EC2R 8AQ and at the offices of Linklaters & Paines, One Silk Street, London EC2M 2TX for at least 15 days ending with the date of the EGM and at the EGM itself. If the Conditions are satisfied the settlement of purchase of Ordinary Shares is expected to take place on 20th November, 1998.

This is a summary of the terms of the Tender Offer full details of which are contained in the Tender Offer document dated 14th September, 1998 (the "Circular").

Procedures for tendering

The Circular and its accompanying Tender Form have been posted by the Company to registered holders of Ordinary Shares. Qualifying Shareholders wishing to tender Ordinary Shares should lodge their duly completed Tender Forms, together with their share certificates and/or other documents of title by post to Bank of Scotland, Corporate Actions, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4AL, or by hand to that address so as to arrive not later than 3.00 p.m. on the Closing Date (30th September, 1998, unless from Bank of Scotland, Corporate Actions at the address above).

The terms and conditions of the Company's warrants (the "Warrants") grant Warrant holders the right to exercise their Warrant subscription rights to subscribe for Ordinary Shares up until the Closing Date, on the terms on which such subscription rights could have been exercised on the last preceding annual Warrant subscription date (31st July, 1998). Following any such exercise, such Warrant holders will be entitled to participate in the Tender Offer in respect of their newly issued Ordinary Shares as if they had been Shareholders on the Tender Offer Record Date.

The Tender Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into, or by use of the mails of, or by any means of instrumentality (including, without limitation, facsimile transmission, telex and telephone) of, interstate or foreign commerce of, or of any facility of a national securities exchange of, the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and Qualifying Shareholders may not tender Ordinary Shares into the Tender Offer by any such use, means, instrumentality or facility or from within the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

16th September, 1998

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	Low Company	Price	Diff	%	1998	Low Company	Price	Diff	%	1998	Low Company	Price	Diff	%	1998	Low Company	Price	Diff	%
1	3000 British	571.0	+1	23.48	101	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	132	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	200	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
2	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	102	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	133	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	201	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
3	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	103	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	134	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	202	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
4	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	104	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	135	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	203	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
5	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	105	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	136	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	204	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
6	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	106	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	137	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	205	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
7	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	107	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	138	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	206	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
8	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	108	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	139	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	207	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
9	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	109	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	140	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	208	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
10	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	110	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	141	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	209	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
11	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	111	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	142	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	210	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
12	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	112	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	143	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	211	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
13	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	113	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	144	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	212	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
14	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	114	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	145	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	213	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
15	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	115	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	146	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	214	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
16	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	116	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	147	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	215	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
17	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	117	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	148	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	216	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
18	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	118	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	149	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	217	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
19	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	119	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	150	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	218	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
20	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	120	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	151	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	219	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
21	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	121	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	152	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	220	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9
22	3200 British	571.0	+1	23.48	122	1244 Quaker	181.0	-1	23.88	153	114 Procter	118.0	-1	4.4	221	204 Heineken	242.0	-1	3.9

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Healey
Baker set
to US firm
for £70m

Reshaped
Britax
advances

Weeks to
back share
profits incre

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by Card Cle

Healey & Baker sold to US firm for £70m

By CARL MORTSHED

HEALEY & BAKER yesterday became the third top firm of British property agents to sell out to American investors this year. The partnership has accepted a £70 million offer to merge its business with Cushman & Wakefield, a private US firm of real estate agents controlled by Mitsubishi Estate.

Based in Hanover Square, Healey & Baker traces its origins back to 1820 but today boasts a staff of 750 and owns operations in 14 countries.

Paul Orchard-Lisle, the senior partner, said that the two firms had been working together for eight years and that

a merger was the next logical step. "The way of the world is that leading businesses will operate on a global basis," he said. "We are finding that clients want a single service provider worldwide."

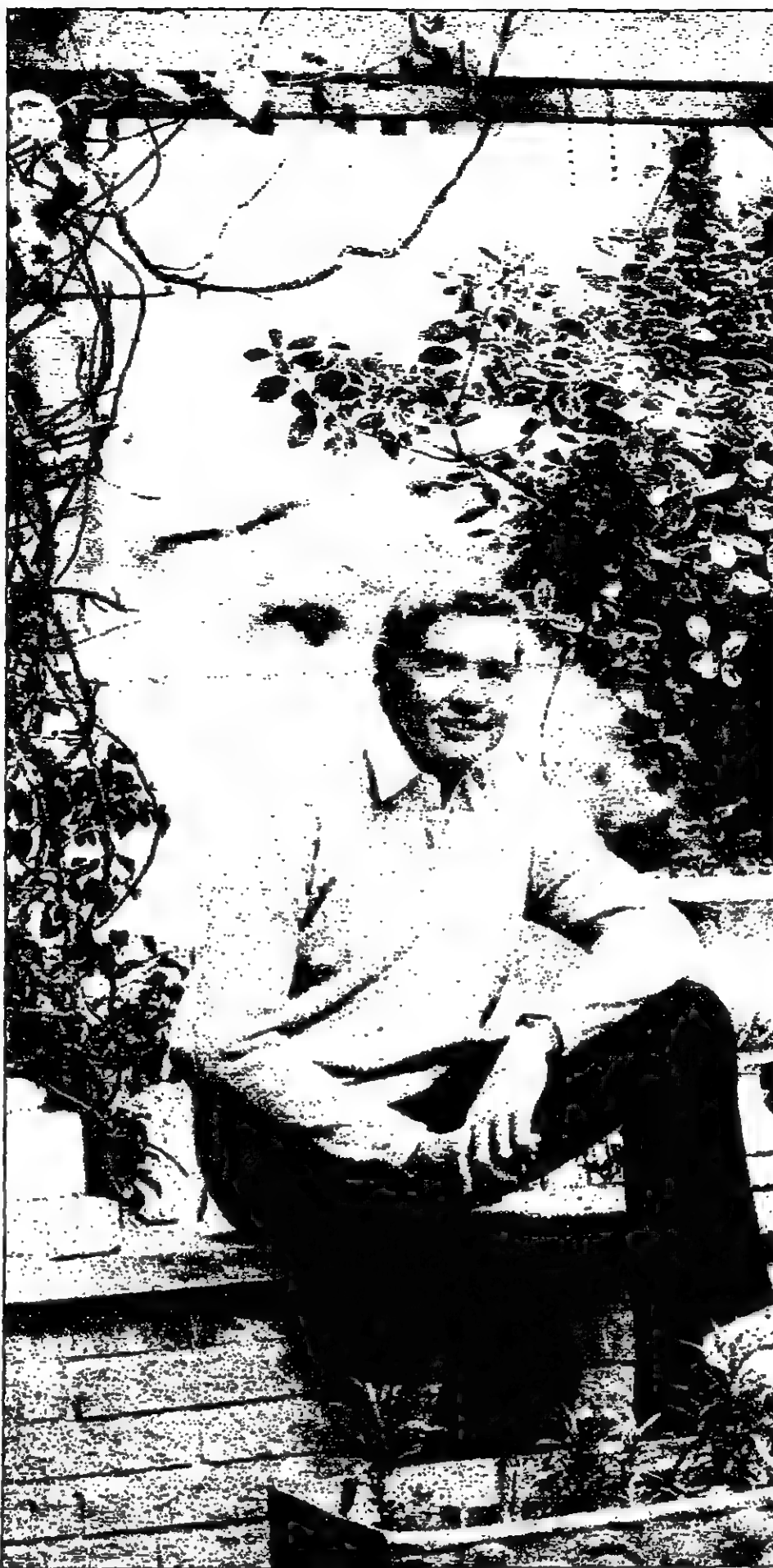
A complex deal will make multimillionaires of the partners while giving shares in Cushman & Wakefield to the staff. Healey & Baker will carry on trading as a partnership under its own name with responsibility for Europe and the Middle East within C&W's worldwide network.

Mr Orchard-Lisle's 3.85 per cent stake in the partnership, which will generate a gain of £2.7 million but the senior partner, who will continue to run the UK partnership, said that the taxman would be claiming some £20 million of the £70 million consideration.

Healey & Baker are being locked into the firm with contracts offering significant performance-related bonuses. About £25 million of the £70 million payout is being set aside to buy shares in Cushman & Wakefield to be distributed among equity and salary partners as well as to other staff.

Healey & Baker's move follows the £99 million takeover of rival Hillier Parker by CB Richard Ellis in July. Earlier in the year the Richard Ellis partnership was torn asunder in a dispute over an offer from two separate American firms. The international arm was acquired by CB Commercial and Insignia bought the UK partnership.

Cushman & Wakefield was founded in 1917 and employs 5,500 people across the US. Last year Healey & Baker had fee income of £55 million and the firm estimates that revenue in the current year will total £65 million. C&W's estimated 1998 turnover is \$500 million (£300 million), providing a total of £368 million for the combined operation.



Paul Orchard-Lisle, who described the deal with Cushman & Wakefield as the next logical step

Reshaped Britax advances

AN 18-MONTH reshaping programme at Britax International, the engineering group, helped increase interim profits by 21 per cent to £26.81 million from £22.21 million (Matthew Barbour writes).

The company, which finished its restructuring programme last month with the sale of its Dutch and British vehicle-leasing operations, saw profits improve in both the automotive equipment and aircraft interiors divisions by 20 per cent and 31 per cent respectively. Profits for the childcare products unit dropped 10.2 per cent to £7 million.

Turnover on continuing operations for the half to June 30 was £259.8 million (£191.41 million), while earnings per share increased 17 per cent to 5.25p (4.50p). Interim dividend is raised to 0.914p (0.85p).

TT seeks to buy back shares as profits increase

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

TT GROUP, the specialist engineering company, is looking to buy back about 20 per cent of its stock to bolster the company's plummeting share price.

Shares in TT closed down 3 1/2p yesterday to reach a four-year low of 205p, having fallen from a high of 385p just four months ago.

John Newman, chief executive, said that, although at present the board has the right to repurchase up to only 10 per cent of the issued stock, it will be approaching shareholders to acquire a further 10 per cent. "At the moment TT shares are better value than any others in the sector, and we have little choice but to prop up the disappointing share price," he said. He attributed the slump to a general malaise in the engineering sector.

The announcement came on the back of a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 to £31.3 mil-

lion (£27 million) on sales up 10 per cent to £324 million (£294 million).

Mr Newman said the growth in profits was the result of a "good performance" from the wire and cable business acquired in March last year, while the rest of the business had "good organic growth of just over 3 per cent". While the Asian crisis did not have a "material" impact on the group, accounting for only 7 per cent of total sales, the strength of sterling took £0.8 million off first-half profits. "It's tough out there. We just have to respond to it," Mr Newman said.

He added that the level of TT's order book remains subdued, although he said that reflected a move by customers to adopt a "just-in-time demand" and thin inventories ahead of the August Bank Holiday. Earnings per share are up to 12.7p (11.4p). The interim dividend will be 3.69p (3.22p).

Delta to cut 330 jobs as part of restructuring

By ADAM JONES

UP TO 330 jobs are to go in the next six months at Delta, the engineer, as it tries to complete its restructuring while struggling with the downturn in Asia and the strength of the pound.

Delta said yesterday that pre-tax profits fell from £33.1 million to £23.2 million in the first half of the year, as the Asian financial turmoil hurt second quarter trading. Exports of electrical equipment from the UK to Hong Kong and Malaysia were among the hardest-hit activities. This was partly balanced by an increase in exports out of Delta's circuit breaker factory in Malaysia, but overall sales to the Asia-Pacific region slumped 12 per cent in the six months.

Delta said more normal order patterns had returned since the second quarter, albeit at lower levels. The group was also hit by a slowdown in the market for plumbing prod-

ucts in Germany and Spain. Stock levels had to be reduced, cutting profits by £2 million.

Jon Scott-Maxwell, chief executive, said the difficult trading conditions had obscured underlying performance "and the benefits from strategic moves we are making".

Delta cut its exposure to commodity cables, a market crippled by oversupply, through a complex asset swap with BICC earlier this year. It is also integrating acquisitions in circuit protection and raw material for dry cell batteries.

About 130 of the imminent job losses will be in the electrical division, including many office jobs in the UK, with a further 100 going across Europe in the plumbing division.

Earnings per share fell from 13.6p to 8.5p, including goodwill amortisation. The interim dividend, maintained at 4.5p, will be paid on December 1.

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Martin to defy the pessimists and open 80 pubs

By ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

J D Wetherspoon, the pub company run by Tim Martin, is fighting against the increasing pessimism in the sector by pledging to open 70 to 80 new outlets this year, a similar number next year and to try to have doubled the size of its 252-strong chain by 2001.

Wetherspoon, opened 68 pubs in its last financial year, 20 more than in the previous year. Meanwhile, Whitbread, one of Wetherspoon's oldest established competitors with 3,400 leased and managed pubs, said its was slowing down a £200 million expansion programme because of recessionary pressures and the price of high street sites.

The finance for the development will come from a combination of cash generated from profits, from debt and from money received in further sales and leaseback arrangements.

Wetherspoon's ambitious expansion plans, which it says will cost £80 million and create 2,000 jobs, comes as it reported improved pre-tax profits. But it also gave a disappointing update on current trading. "Like-for-like sales in the period since the year end decreased by 1 per cent." However, sales picked up after the first two weeks, which had been particularly slow.

In the last financial year to August 2, like-for-like sales grew by 2 per cent. The company said it would have been nearer 4 per cent but, because it has a policy of not having television in its pubs, sales had been affected by the football World Cup.

Pre-tax profits rose from £17.6 million to £20.2 million, and were bolstered by an additional £15 million of property profits generated as the company sold sites and then leased them back.

Earnings per share, before property profits, rose from 8.7p to 9.9p. The company is paying a final dividend of 1.45p, up from 1.35p, making a total for the year of 2.2p, 10 per cent ahead of last time.

Tempos, page 24

Servomex suffers worst one-day fall

SHARES of Servomex suffered their sharpest one-day fall yesterday after the struggling gas instruments producer said its profits had dropped 75 per cent at the halfway stage. The company, which generates 80 per cent of its sales from overseas, blamed the strong pound on translation of profits. It also gave warning that the outlook was not good. Terry Clements, chairman, said: "In common with the majority of manufacturing exporters, we are finding that economic circumstances worldwide are adversely affected."

Its shares, which were trading at 370p six months ago, fell 21 per cent in a seven-year low of 147p yesterday. Charterhouse Tilney, its house broker, now expects the company's profits to decline for the second year running, with £2.5 million for the full year. It had previously forecast £3.4 million. Servomex said its order book had declined 3.6 per cent, to £4.21 million. However, the company said its Bühler Montec water-monitoring division should improve over the next four months. Overall, earnings were 1.4p (5p) a share, and the interim dividend, due on October 30, was frozen at 2.85p.

Mucklow moves ahead

MUCKLOW, the commercial property group, saw the value of its property portfolio rise from £240 million to £267 million in the year to June 30. Over the period, the company bought a three million hectare industrial site in Wednesbury; the headquarters of Midlands Electricity, in Halesowen; and a car showroom in Cheltenham. Its overall vacancy rate fell from 21,700 sq ft to 16,500 sq ft. Its pre-tax profits were £13.4 million (£11.9 million) leaving earnings of 7.53p (7p) per share. The shares added 2p to 144p.

IRG loss falls to £1.1m

INDEPENDENT RADIO GROUP, the Wigan company that controls radio stations in Scotland, the North West and the South East, yesterday announced a fall in pre-tax losses from £1.8 million to £1.1 million in the six months to June. Sales remained flat at about £1.7 million, while losses per share fell from 9.9p to 5.8p. John Bateson, the chairman, said: "The outlook for radio advertising is encouraging." He added that the second half would be hit by the delayed launch of a new station, Wire FM. The shares were unchanged at 64p.

Sales grow at Freeport

FREEPORT LEISURE, which runs factory outlet retail villages, said its tenants' like-for-like sales had grown 9 per cent over July and August. Freeport added 60,000 feet of selling space to its outlets over the year to June 27, allowing pre-tax profits to grow to £2.81 million (£1.78 million). Earnings were 10.63p (5.65p) and the final dividend doubles to 1p a share. The company said that it had little to fear from an economic downturn, as it was set up during a recession. Freeport shares jumped 17p to 325p at yesterday's close.

Telewest share deal

TELEWEST COMMUNICATIONS said MediaOne International Holdings has conditionally agreed to acquire up to 180 million Telewest shares at \$2.25 (£1.34) a share from Southwestern Bell. The exact number of shares will be decided over the coming weeks. Telewest said that under the terms of the company's agreements with certain of its main corporate shareholders, it has first offer rights with MediaOne over the shares. The purchase of the Southwestern stake will give MediaOne 29.9 per cent of Telewest shares.

Clump recruited by Card Clear

By FRASER NELSON

CARD CLEAR, the anti-fraud company that recently fired its chief executive for "misrepresenting the nature of a payment" has replaced him with Carl Clump.

Mr Clump has been working with Ernest Saunders at International Card Enterprises (ICE), the US petrol credit card company. He takes the helm in December. He will be recruited on a highly incentivised pay package, likely to be dominated by share options.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman, said: "Mr Clump was second to set up a pan-European petrol credit card — which shows he has expertise."

Mr Clump was made managing director of ICE four years ago, and Mr Saunders

became chairman of the executive committee two years ago.

Mr Clump said he met Mr Saunders on a monthly basis. He said: "I would say that I get on with him and find his advice valuable."

Mr Whitaker said that Mr Clump would be given an "attractive pay package" but said the basic salary would not necessarily be more than the £200,000 a year enjoyed by Brian Raven, his predecessor.

Card Clear generates a substantial chunk of its business from petrol stations who use its databases to see whether credit cards have been stolen.

ICE, based in Minneapolis, runs the Overdrive and Dialcard fuel cards used by many British motorists.

Redrow attacks planning system

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

REDROW, the housebuilder, yesterday attacked Britain's planning system after announcing a 34 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits.

The company said that high interest rates and economic uncertainty in the past year had made market conditions "difficult", but insisted that the outlook was still positive.

Steve Morgan, chairman, said: "There remains an undoubted demand for new homes and I see no return to the boom-bust days."

However, he added: "There appears to be little political will in central and local government to address housing shortages. We appreciate that we should build on re-usable brownfield sites, but often it

takes longer to get planning permission to build there than on greenfield sites. It makes a mockery of the Government's plans for urban regeneration."

Mr Morgan said: "We have a quality landbank in quality locations with a quality product to match. We have a strong forward sales position and feel confident that further progress will be maintained." Redrow would continue to expand all sides of its business, and would focus on the South, South East and South West.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose to £48.2 million (£36.1 million) on turnover up 21 per cent to £307.2 million. Earnings per share rose 38 per cent to 15.7p (11.4p). The full-year dividend rises to 4.05p (3.6p).

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1998

[illegible]



SHOWBIZ
Bernadette Peters's Broadway tunes
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THE TIMES ARTS

RECORDS
Putting Derek Jarman's words to music
PAGE 31



Roll up for a taste of things to come

Birmingham is offering 200 free previews of imminent arts events. It's a brilliant idea, says **Daniel Rosenthal**

A next week's inaugural Birmingham ArtsFest, the Royal Shakespeare Company will present Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, a 30-minute quiz in which actors provide "an unholy alliance of stand-up comedy, audience participation and the best of the Bard". Purists will squirm, and companions with the Reduced Shakespeare Company are inevitable. Yet this attempt by the RSC to widen its audience is precisely the kind of unstuffy initiative that ArtsFest's organisers hope will make it a revolution in cultural marketing.

Between 8pm on Friday September 25 and 11pm on Sunday September 27 there will be 200 free performances lasting 30 minutes or less, at ten indoor and three outdoor venues across Birmingham city centre. Seventy West Midlands-based music, theatre, dance and visual arts groups, including Birmingham's Symphony Orchestra, Touring Opera and Royal Ballet, will perform short pieces or "taster" extracts. Some will also hold workshops.

The showcase approach has numerous precedents at trade level. The Society of London Theatre, for example, invites hundreds of corporate hospitality bookers to sample chunks from forthcoming West End shows. The British public, however, has never had access to such a wide-ranging package of "Taste now, buy later" previews.

ArtsFest is modelled on Amsterdam's hugely successful *Uitmarkt*, which for the past 20 years has transformed the last weekend in August into a 48-hour celebration of imminent cultural attractions. A visit to *Uitmarkt* 1998 demonstrated that Birmingham has borrowed a superb recipe.

The event's guiding principle is that you should be able to watch, say, a bizarre multimedia show, an all-girl pop band, a quirky comedy duo and a classical pianist all within the space of two hours and 200 metres. For free. It offered 400 performances at 26 venues, with the artists waiving fees (as they will at ArtsFest). Total attendance was about

'The British public has never before been able to taste now and buy later'

500,000, with 10,000 people gathering in front of the Koninklijk Palace on Dam Square for the opening gala, featuring the flamboyant cabaret star Karin Bloemen. Thousands more tuned in to television and radio highlights.

Two information markets, with about 60 covered stalls at each, provided posters, leaflets and booking forms (ArtsFest will have a similar set-up on Centenary Square). All in all, *Uitmarkt* is perfect for relaxed "cultural grazing": you have not paid to watch, so there is no resentment if a show disappoints, minimal frustration if you have a poor view outdoors, or fail to get into a packed indoor event.

Theatergroep de grens adopted the most tantalising tactics with its production of Tracey Letts's black comedy, *Killer Joe*. After 20 minutes, as we were beginning to delight in Letts's white trash

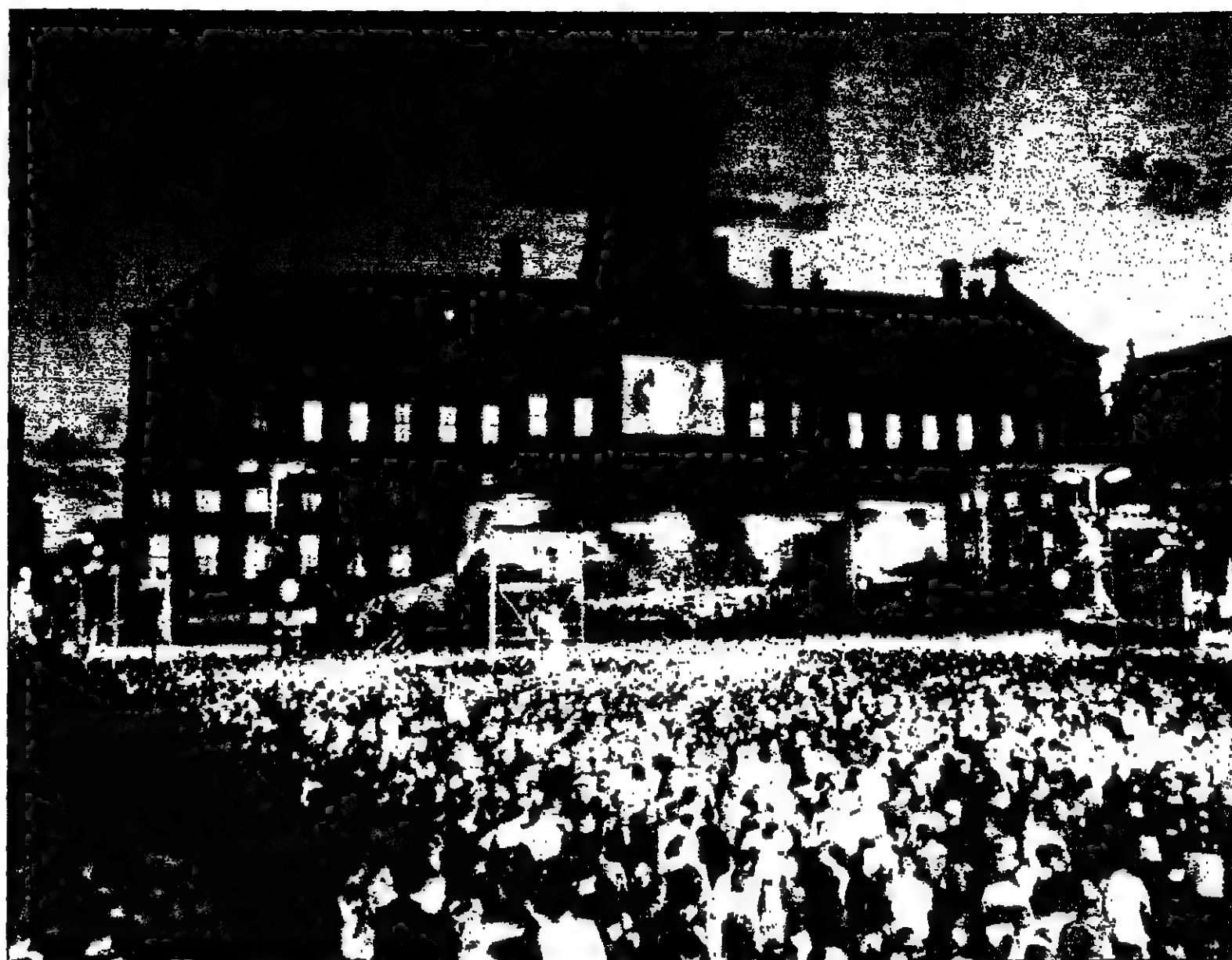
characters, the actors froze and a voice over the PA invited us to book for the play's Amsterdam run in October. Talk about "Always leave them wanting more".

The 64,000-guilder question, of course, is: do those who enjoy *Uitmarkt* subsequently buy tickets for full-length performances? It is indicative of Holland's relaxed approach to arts marketing (attributable, perhaps, to state subsidies of up to 90 per cent) that no research has been carried out.

Michiel Buchel, managing director of Amsterdam's *Uitmarkt*, which manages the weekend, says: "Anecdotally, we know a lot of people buy tickets months later, when they see an advertisement and recall an *Uitmarkt* performance. We want people to book ahead, but *Uitmarkt* is, above all, a party — a gift from artists to audience."

ArtsFest aims to recreate that party atmosphere, but Paul Kaynes, chief executive of Birmingham Arts Marketing, co-ordinating the event, wants to generate increased box-office revenue for all the participating companies. There will also be comprehensive audience research. Birmingham Arts Marketing surveys have shown that 75 per cent of the 2.4 million people living within a 45-minute drive of Birmingham city centre consider themselves "in the market" for arts events, but only 40 per cent are buying tickets. That leaves more than 800,000 potential new customers as ArtsFest's primary target.

"Many of those who don't currently attend believe that theatre, ballet or classical music are just not for them," says Kaynes. ArtsFest's no-risk, bite-sized presentation is, he argues, an ideal way to re-



The *Uitmarkt* in Amsterdam: an annual weekend festival giving free previews of 400 arts events to 500,000 people. Now Birmingham is to do the same

move such barriers. "We also want to introduce regular arts consumers to the smaller, more peripheral organisations which produce extraordinary work but don't have a large media profile."

Visitors will be asked to fill in an ArtsFest Passport, giving details of which companies they have watched, and can expect follow-up phone calls. This research is a requirement of the Arts Council New Audi-

ences scheme, which has contributed £120,000 to ArtsFest, with a further £100,000 from Birmingham City Council. Kaynes anticipates a total audience of about 80,000. And, given that *Uitmarkt* oper-

ated just three stages when it began in 1978 and took five years to double in size, he hopes ArtsFest will be given time to grow: "I have absolute faith in our ability to build a huge audience," he says. If he

realises this vision, the ArtsFest formula should quickly be imitated by cities throughout Britain. Details of ArtsFest are available from Birmingham Arts Marketing on 0121-625 1234

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor admires some racy modern Italians

Unbelievably tiring. Life passes by me. Speed and time are conspiring to crucify me... So intoned *Burnie Barnes* in 1931, courtesy of Noel Coward. It was no doubt what the world-weary sophisticated would think. But the Italian Futurists, though undoubtedly sophisticated, took a different view. For them the essence of modernity was in speed, in flight. Far from wearying it invigorated, and formed the basis of all their art.

Despite the efforts of the Royal Academy's *Italian Art in the 20th Century* exhibition in 1989, turn-of-the-century Italian art is not well known in this country. An important move towards greater familiarity with some key figures was made earlier this year with the opening of the *Esorick Collection of Modern Italian Art* in Canbury. The permanent collection includes some classic Futurist works, such as Balla's "simultaneous" painting of a violinist playing. Now, for its autumn show, the collection has brought over 23 prime Futurist paintings borrowed from the Galleria Nazionale

Fast forward to the Futurists



Giacomo Balla's *Dynamic Expansion + Speed* (circa 1913)

d'Arte Moderna in Rome, which holds probably the best collection of Futurists.

It is not a huge show. But it is an undeniably choice one, and Giacomo Balla (1871-1958) is rightly headlined in the title. Balla and Futurist Italy. His eight works in the show sum

up, and indeed largely anticipate, nearly all that Futurism strove for. *Dynamic Expansion + Speed* (1913) applies the simultaneity principle to a speeding car. *Bridge of Speed* (1913-15) features the dizzying aerial perspectives which fascinated Futurists in the experi-

ence of flying. *Science Against Obscurantism* (1920) reduces all to the confrontation of jagged opposing shapes.

The other great figure in bringing about the transition of Italian painting from hazy Symbolism to impulsive Modernism, Umberto Boccioni (1882-1916), is represented by two rather more traditional portraits, of a friend called Sylvia and of the composer Busoni. Other artists set off in different directions, but all from the dynamic centre which was the Futurist movement's resident philosopher, F.T. Marinetti. His wife Benedetta in fact provides one of the most thrilling evocations of flight. *Aeropainting of a Meeting with an Island* (1934-35), though Gerard Dottori's brilliant, Disney-fied *Miracle of Lights Flying* (1932) is not far behind — or below. The sheer energy level throughout is tonic, and unlike anything in British art of the time, even the Vorticists whom the Italian Futurists most resembled.

Esorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, 39a Canbury Square, NI 0171-704 9522 until Dec 13

Finn pickings

POP

AS THE mainstay of antipodean pop superstars *Crowded House*, Neil Finn found himself in the enviable position of fronting a band who won favour with both the critics and the record-buying public. But in 1996 Finn served an eviction order on *Crowded House* and launched a solo career, which began in earnest with the release last month of the album, *Try Whistling This*.

For the corresponding world tour Finn has assembled a whole new backing band, including his 14-year-old son, Liam, on guitar and occasional drums. An exhaustive American jaunt has knocked the group into shape: Liam never looked overawed by his surroundings, to the point where he even sang one of his own songs, *Empty Head*, during one of the extended encores.

It's a well-balanced set on the whole, with most of the new album getting an airing, along with the old reliables from the *Crowded House* songbook. After a sluggish start, Finn switched into showman

mode by engaging the sellout crowd in Dublin's Olympia Theatre in a call-and-response routine during the forthcoming single, *Sinner*. There followed an acoustic interlude with fine versions of *Crowded House* favourites *Distant Sun* and *Four Seasons in One Day*, followed by a stint at the keyboards for *Walking on the Spot*.

The band returned but some of the new material, like *Dream Date* and *Faster than Light*, seemed formless and a bit too studied. The low point came when Finn started playing with his array of foot pedals, oblivious to the fact that his audience wasn't having quite the same fun as he was. Fresh impetus was added by the supremely catchy pop of *She Will Have Her Way* and then it was time for the encores, which included the show-stopping *Don't Dream It's Over*.

NICK KELLY

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Fares from Scotland and Belfast to London Luton are also £22 single and £34 return. *Fare includes a £14.50 departure tax from Athens and the UK departure tax.

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- Tokens will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between September 6 and October 4 1998.
- Attach your tokens to the booking validation form (another will appear in *The Times* on Saturday) which you will need to present when you check in for your onward journey.
- easyJet is a ticketless airline. Once your booking has been processed you will be issued with a confirmation number which is all you require, along with your booking validation form and tokens, and passport for international travel.

BOOKING OPENS SEPTEMBER 29



SHOWBIZ

Show girl in town

Baby, look at you now

CABARET: If you want to see a genuine Broadway babe, catch Bernadette Peters, says Matt Wolf

Cameron Mackintosh's cheerfully self-exalting tribute to his own career at the Lyric Theatre in June — a royal gala titled *Hey Mr Producer!* — featured a host of familiar names (Julie Andrews, Michael Ball, Elaine Paige) alongside one visitor from across the Atlantic whose qualities as a belter are as distinctive as her cascading ringlets of auburn hair. Among hundreds of performers, Bernadette Peters stood out so slightly from the crowd.

"She's an original," Mackintosh says. "One of those very terrific theatre animals. She has her own style."

Tomorrow, London gets to discover Peters at the Festival Hall, backed by a full orchestra in a version of the concert that she first performed to rave reviews at New York's Carnegie Hall in December, 1996. That show was recorded live and, since then, has travelled around America and to the Sydney Festival in Australia. But only now, aged 50, is Peters making her solo concert debut in London, allowing local audiences to experience someone as close as the New York theatre still allows to a genuine Broadway babe.

Indeed, Stephen Sondheim's *Broadway Baby* (from his 1971 *Follies*) is one of Peters' chosen songs in an evening whose entire second half is devoted to the composer, with whom Peters remains best associated, following her bravura performances in his successive *Eighties Broadway* ventures *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*.

In between those two shows, this native of New York's Ozone Park in Queens won a Tony Award playing the heart-sick Briton on her own in Manhattan in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*.

Set these performances alongside Jerry Herman's 1975 cult favourite *Mack and Mabel*, in which Peters originated the role of silent movie comedienne Mabel Normand oppo-

site the Mack Sennett of the late Robert Preston, and you have that rare performer whose career spans three centuries thought to be stylistically antithetical: the ever-humble Herman, the supposedly ruffled and difficult Sondheim and the determinedly populist Lloyd Webber.

"They're artists of a different nature, that's all; their souls come out in different ways," says Peters, who had been performing professionally for almost two decades before she first worked with Sondheim, on *Sunday in the Park*. "I never thought I would ever be in a Sondheim show and assumed I was just from a different world. I felt I was someone he probably wouldn't be interested in: I judged myself, I limited myself, which you should not do, and I was really wrong."

She now acknowledges *Sunday in the Park* as the turning point in a career that had previously honoured her kerpoodle looks and fresh-faced innocence without fully allowing Peters to be the emotional pivot and centre to a show. "I was finally in a hit," she says, having weathered a short-lived 1971 revival of *On the Town* (for which she nonetheless received a Tony nomination) and, two years earlier, an all-but-forgotten stage musical of the Fellini film *La Strada* by Brian's own Lionel Bart.

"It was nice to be in something that was a success and that led you back so much," she says of *Sunday in the Park*, which survived a bumpy workshop and troubled previews to run for 540 performances and win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. "I still have a feeling that comes over me when I hear the opening French horn of that show."

Peters is no stranger to other media, having done a TV series and various films, including a rare Merchant-Ivory foray into the world of ivory, downtown Manhattan (*Slaves of*



Fifty going on 25: Bernadette Peters is equally at home singing side by side with Sondheim, Herman and Lloyd Webber

New York, with Peters in the leading role as the novelist Tama Janowitz's alter ego, and virtually back-to-back projects (*The Jerk and Pennies From Heaven*) opposite one-time boyfriend Steve Martin. In 1981 she was even a *Playboy* cover girl. "You have to pick things that will be different and varied," says Peters, who began studying voice and dance at three-and-a-half, her second name by then changed by her mother from Lazzara to Peters so that the young Bernadette would not be typecast in ethnic roles.

"My mother told me that Bernadette was too long to fit on a billboard, but I knew what was really going on: she didn't want child agents to make me an Italian girl, which might have been kind of interesting. I probably would have had a whole other career being Anna Maria Alberghe-

Soaring songs without words

Is there anything she has not sung? Sibongile Khumalo has recorded Zulu folk songs, appeared as a soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, starred in musicals and performed the national anthem at the rugby World Cup finals in South Africa. And she plays the violin.

When singers with even a hint of a classical pedigree cross into the jazz field the results are usually less than satisfactory. Many a diva endowed with glittering technique and cavernous lungs has come to grief on a humble show tune. Khumalo — who is in residence in Soho until Saturday — handles the transition better than most. By concentrating on South African compositions in her opening set — including a tribute to Miriam Makeba — she wisely played to her strengths.

For much of the evening she deployed her voice like an instrumentalist. As on the newly released Johannesburg recording, *Live At The Market Theatre*, she opened with soaring wordless vocals on Abdullah Ibrahim's *Tsakw'Royal Blue*. Ibrahim is a master of simple but memorable melodies — some of his pieces glow with the unpretentious majesty of a Wesley hymn. Khumalo's untutored vocal delivery explored the unadorned theme over an insistent bass line. At the close she added an intricate coda in a display of immaculate microphone control.

What was largely absent in this set was the casual stretching and contracting of rhythm that you come to expect from instinctive jazz singers. An avowed admirer of the exotic Rachelle Ferrell — another virtuoso with an instrumental technique — Khumalo enjoys luxuriating in extended legato phrases that wait to and fro over the unhurried piano chords of her musical director Themba Mkhize. The approach has its limitations, especially on material as gentle as *Umbongo*, a tune by her trumpeter Prince Lengoasa. Here and elsewhere, Lengoasa unfurls some wistful Miles-ish solos with the harmonic mule, but you cannot help wishing the arrangements could be more forceful at times. But if you want the hustle-bustle of straight-ahead pop, you can turn to the crisp

JAZZ
Sibongile Khumalo
Ronnie Scott's

support set from trombonist Alison White and saxophonist Pete Wareham, prize-winners in last year's Royal and Sun Alliance Young Jazz Musician of the Year competition.

CLIVE DAVIS

TOMORROW

Jacobi's Bacon: the verdict

Songs from the sex garden

MUSIC: John Allison charts the rise and rise of a young composer

Whatever the traditional routes are by which most young composers make a name, Donna McKeivitt has not followed them. Yet her rise to prominence has been sudden. Every one who heard the premiere of *Translucence*, her song cycle setting Derek Jarman's poems, at the City of London Festival this summer was moved and impressed, but nobody quite knew where the composer had come from.

Now the work has been released on CD by a major label, Teldec — not had for a 28-year-old's Opus 1. Surely she had been composing before making this official debut? "Not really. I didn't study composition. I went to Kingston Poly where I did a bog-standard BA in music, and I took part in a lunchtime series of student works called *Brahms Is Dead*, but I didn't consider myself a composer. I was much more into singing and playing the viola."

McKeivitt's next two projects are both poetry inspired. Currently immersed in Cylan settings for the counter-tenor Michael Chance (the soloist in *Translucence*) and Fretwork, she is also turning her attention to the work of Messiaen's mother, Cécile Sauvage. "I had difficulty finding her poetry. Even in the British Library, on the Internet and at Paris publishers I drew a blank. Then, on a trip through France with my partner, our motorbike broke down, and I went into an antique store to ask if they had heard of Sauvage. 'Oui, oui,' the man said, and handed me the only two volumes she ever completed! They include an amazing cycle she wrote while pregnant with Messiaen, incredibly prophetic, sensual poetry, but with a melancholic edge."

These projects are "enough for now", McKeivitt is not working to a deadline, doesn't like the idea of pressure, and is not yet used to the idea of getting commissioned. "I was on the dole for two years while working on *Translucence*, and if that's what I have to do, I'll do it. I'd rather do that than write a jingle. I'd rather do something else than write bad music."

Two years after graduating, with no burning ambition to be a composer but just a feeling that she wanted to work in the practical performing arts, she was in the band Miranda's Sex Garden when they were invited to contribute to the soundtrack of Jarman's last movie, *Blue*. McKeivitt had to write the music, and the experience was to prove decisive.

"Jarman was a brilliant poet. Something in me clicked, and I felt compelled to explore his work. I didn't have a commission, but just set about gathering his writings and burying myself in them for six months before composing a note. The result is a work of haunting and unpretentious beauty, which succeeds above all because McKeivitt captures the pathos and wit of the poetry; it is also an eloquent tribute to the late Jarman, whom she never met. 'He was ill and needed to spend his last few months with those close to him. When you have an idol, it's a selfish thing to want to take up their time.'"

A sticker on the CD case warns of "Explicit Lyrics", though as the quiet and gently unassuming McKeivitt is quick to point out, "most of the texts are not provocative, they are tender love songs. But the whole point was to represent Jarman as a poet, and if I'd only set the 'nice' stuff, I'd have been unrepresentative of him. That's also why the musical style is simple. I didn't want to impose myself on his work, so I allowed myself to be led by the poetry, and I hope the results are true to both Derek's writing and his inner world."

It quickly becomes clear how important literary images are to McKeivitt. "Words make a gradual but lasting impres-



Donna McKeivitt inspired by Derek Jarman's poems

sion on me, sculpture and painting too. I'm much less influenced by other people's music, though I love and admire figures like Messiaen, George Benjamin and Kurtag, who's very liberating in that he does whatever he wants to. The Jarman taught me that when working in London, which is so noisy and distracting, it really helps to have something solid to concentrate on. But I'm probably going to be moving to France, to an isolated old watermill in the Massif Central mountains. I'm hoping that by working there I'll be able to free myself from this need for texts."

● *Translucence* is released this week by Teldec (0984-22500-3)

ALAN CLARK FORUM

Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister.

The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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Assignment without consent effective

Hendry v Chartsearch Ltd
Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Millett
[Judgment July 23]

The assignment to a third party of the benefit of a contract without the prior consent of the other contracting party, as the contract required, was without legal effect so far as that other party was concerned and could be disregarded by that party with impunity, even though the assignment was effective as between the assignor and the assignee third party.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the plaintiff, Ross Scott Hendry, although allowing it in part on other grounds, from the judgment of Judge Raymond Jack, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in the Bristol Mercantile Court on January 30, 1995, when he granted the application of the defendants, Chartsearch Ltd, to strike out certain parts of the plaintiff's amended statement of claim as disclosing no reasonable cause of action.

The plaintiff alleged, inter alia, as chairman and 50 per cent shareholder of Interface Data Centres Ltd and relying on two written agreements of February 1991 and November 1992 between Interface and the defendants under which Interface undertook in return for payment by the defendants to provide data processing facilities and services on computer hardware and software, that the defendants breached the agreements, and that Interface passed a special resolution in September 1993 under which the company agreed to transfer and assign to him the causes of action against the defendants arising from their failure to pay the sums due. Notice of the

assignment was given to the defendants in November 1993. Mr Declan O'Mahony for the plaintiff; Mr Clive Freedman, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the pleaded facts were straightforward. There was an assignment, it was alleged, in qualified rather than absolute terms.

Mr O'Mahony accepted that if the bar on assignments was absolute, then a purported assignment in breach of the clause would be ineffective as regarded the debtor, the defendants: see *Linden Gardens Trust Ltd v Lenesta Sludge Disposals Ltd* [1994] 1 AC 85, 108.

But where the bar was qualified, he submitted, it was not required that the assignment be unreasonably withheld, then the reasonableness or otherwise of the refusal, had to be considered in the light of all the circumstances, taking both parties' interests into account.

Since those matters required investigation the claim should not be struck out at the interlocutory stage, and Mr O'Mahony relied especially on allegations that the defendants deliberately sought to destroy Interface's business so as to starve it of funds and so prevent it from bringing proceedings on its own.

Mr Freedman contended that without consent the assignment was a nullity, alternatively the defendants were entitled reasonably to withhold their consent if they had been asked to give it. The trading relationship had ended and the proposed assignment was to enable litigation against the defendants, by a plaintiff who would not be liable to be ordered to pay security for costs.

His Lordship said that a number of issues had to be considered. One of those was the position with regard to security for costs. The debtor had a statutory right which protected him from being sued by an impecunious plaintiff: *Norglen Ltd (in Liquidation) v Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd* [1997] 3 WLR 1177.

However, great disadvantages to the creditor, company or individual, it could not be regarded as unreasonable for the debtor to insist on that statutory right. For that reason his Lordship considered that the defendants were entitled to refuse consent.

Therefore, the issue whether the assignment was invalid or ineffective on the basis that no prior request was made, even though consent could not reasonably have been refused, did not arise.

If, however, the individual assignee was willing to provide security on the same terms as if he were the company, then, in his Lordship's view, the debtor could not reasonably refuse his consent on that ground. But that was not the position in this case.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that where an assignment of contractual rights, such as a chose in action, was prohibited without the prior written consent of the other contracting party, such consent not to be unreasonably refused, there could be no valid assignment until after (i) written consent had been granted, or (ii) the court had declared that the consent had been unreasonably refused: *Linden Gardens* (1998).

The suggestion that the assignor could validly assign in breach of his contract without ever seeking prior consent by asserting that, as such consent could not reasonably be refused so it was unnecessary, was a recipe to promote uncertainty and speculative litigation.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that he regarded it as fatal to the validity of the assignment on which the plaintiff relied that the defendants' consent was not sought before assignment was made.

The hypothetical question whether if their consent had been sought it could reasonably have been refused was irrelevant and was not a proper subject of inquiry.

The law was settled to that effect in relation to the assignment of leasehold land. A lease created a legal estate in land. One of the incidents of ownership was the right to dispose of the property.

It was therefore not possible to deprive a lessee of his ability to make an effective assignment of the lease. But it was possible for the lessor to take a covenant against assignment and to reserve a power of re-entry for breach of the covenant.

An assignment in breach of covenant was effective to vest the legal estate in the assignee, but the assignee took a defeasible interest only which was liable to forfeiture of the lease for breach of covenant.

A covenant against assignment might be in absolute terms or conditional on obtaining the lessor's prior consent, such condition also being qualified by a proviso that the lessor's consent should not be unreasonably withheld.

But it was essential that the lessor's consent was sought before the assignment was made. Consent could not be said to be withheld or refused if it was not asked for. It was not an answer that no reasonable objection could have been made if consent had been sought; the proviso had no application unless it was.

As between the parties to it, an ordinary commercial contract was not property but obligation. There

was therefore no objection to making the benefit of the contract non-assignable.

It was sufficient to provide, as the present contract did, that a party should not be entitled to assign the benefit of the agreement without the prior written consent of the other.

The assignment made, therefore, was effective as between assignor and assignee, but was ineffective as between the assignor and the defendants. The making of the assignment did not put the assignor in breach of contract, let alone in repudiatory breach; it simply did not affect the defendants' legal position and could be regarded by them with impunity.

Whether the subject matter of the proposed assignment was a term of years or the benefit of a commercial contract, the effect of the proviso was the same. Consent was not withheld if it was not asked for; and if it was withheld it could not be said to be unreasonably withheld.

In the case of a lease, the fact that an assignment in breach of covenant was voidable did not mean that the assignee took the lease as a licensee. The breach of covenant was complete and the lease was liable to forfeiture.

But in the case of the benefit of a contract it was not too late for the assignor to ask for consent to the assignment. The contract required the assignor to obtain the prior consent of the other party. Retrospective consent, if given, might operate as a waiver but could not amount to the consent required.

The proper course was for the assignor to ask for consent to a new assignment and to wait until it was given or unreasonably refused before proceeding to make it.

Solicitors: Richard Welsh & Co, Bristol; Swycher & Co.

Supplying medicines at doctor's surgery

Regina v Family Health Services Authority, Ex parte Elmfield Drugs Ltd
Regina v Same, Ex parte Sells Dispensing Chemists Ltd (Beverley)
Regina v Same, Ex parte Sells Dispensing Chemists Ltd (Caistor)
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Aldous
[Judgment July 23]

It was not unlawful for a doctor to delegate to another who was neither a doctor nor a pharmacist the supply of medicine to his patients. The doctor did not personally have to hand over the supply of medicine to the patients.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing the appeal of Elmfield Drugs Ltd of Westwimham, Kent, Sells Dispensing Chemists Ltd of Beverley, North Humberside and Sells Dispensing Chemists Ltd of Caistor, Lincolnshire who were community pharmacists, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Owen on October 10, 1997 of their applications for judicial review of decisions of the Family Health Services Authority.

The FHSA by its pharmacy appeals committee had affirmed applications by local doctors to be able to dispense medicines to patients living more than one mile away from the nearest pharmacy.

The applications by Dr Skinner and partners in Kent, Dr Lavine and partners in Beverley and Dr Wood and Dr McKinlay in Caistor were opposed by the three pharmacists who carried on business in the area.

Mr Duncan Ouseley, QC and Mr Jonathan Fisher for the pharmacists; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Michael Soole for the doctors as interested parties; the FHSA did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that it was agreed that the criteria for the FHSA making an order, satisfied, were that the pharmacist maintained that under Part III of the Medicines Act 1968 a registered medical practitioner could not delegate to another who was neither a doctor or pharmacist the supply of medicine to his patients; he must personally hand over the medicines to patients.

The question was one of considerable importance to doctors and pharmacists, particularly in rural areas.

There was no dispute that the method of supplying medicines proposed by the doctors accorded with contemporary experience and

practice in rural areas. When patients were seen in a doctor's consulting room at the surgery, a prescription was written out or keyed into a computer terminal.

The patient then took the prescription to a dispensing area, or if computer generated, the prescription was printed out automatically in the doctor's dispensary and the medicine was supplied generally by someone who was not the doctor, but might be a receptionist or nurse, but at all events was not qualified as a pharmacist or doctor. The appellants maintained that in those circumstances the supply was unlawful.

For the purposes of supply to the public, medicines or medicinal products were divided into three classes: those that could be supplied only from a pharmacy; and those that could be supplied only pursuant to a prescription by an appropriate practitioner, that is, a doctor, or, subject to certain exemptions, from a pharmacist.

Part III of the 1968 Act set out provisions relating to dealings with medicinal products. Sections 51 to 58 were relevant and section 55 was the material section in the present case.

It provided: "(1) The restrictions imposed by sections 52 and 53 of the 1968 Act do not apply to the sale, offer for sale, or supply of a medicinal product: (a) by a doctor, to a patient of his or to a person under whose care such a patient is; ..."

His Lordship did not derive assistance either from the fact that the common law imposed a duty of care on a pharmacist who put into circulation a dangerous or unreliable drug, or from reliance on certain health service regulations which imposed obligations on a doctor, when many could obviously be performed by an agent or from the legislative history.

Mr Beloff was right in submitting that the solution was to be found in the application of general principles of agency and the ordinary principles of statutory construction.

His Lordship referred to *Chlry on Contract* (27th edition (1994) volume 2, paragraph 31-001) and *Bowstead on Agency* (16th edition (1994) 2016) to which the judge had directed himself and agreed that handing over, as opposed to making up medicines in the circumstances contemplated here, did not require discretion. Discretion would have to be exercised by the doctor and handing over did not require any special personal skill.

Section 52 of the 1968 Act supported that view. It would be

no defence to a person charged with an offence under section 52 that he had not personally supplied medicine but it was done by his servant or agent.

Subsection (4) imposed a limitation on what would otherwise be an unrestricted right to supply by a servant or agent, by requiring that such supply be supervised by a pharmacist. And in so doing section 52(c) expressly recognised that the supply could be performed by a servant or agent, subject to the proviso.

One would expect Parliament to give the same meaning to "supply" used in its ordinary, normal meaning of "provide" in the series of sections of the Act relating to dealing with medicinal products, and adopt the same approach to the concept of supply.

The court was concerned with the construction of sections of the Act of which amounted to a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment for up to two years. It was not, therefore, a case where the construction of section 55(1)(a) was the court's duty to give it a meaning which did not involve the conduct in question being an offence.

That was perhaps all the more so when the construction contemplated would involve criminalising conduct which had been widely adopted for many years.

Mr Ouseley submitted that there was no logical reason why the duty of supervision of the supply should be imposed upon pharmacists with no corresponding duty on doctors.

The explanation might in part be that a pharmacy business could be carried out by a body corporate, which could only act by its servants or agents, whereas the profession of a doctor could only be carried out by a natural person.

In the case of a company carrying out a pharmacy business, it must be under the management of a superintendent pharmacist. But that was not the same as each supply or sale being supervised by a pharmacist as required by section 52(c).

It might be that the distinction was historical. Whatever the reason, his Lordship could see no basis for imposing a far stricter regime on doctors who ex hypothesi had prescribed or ordered the medicine for their patients, by requiring them not merely to supervise the supply, as in the case of pharmacists, but actually to perform the mechanical act of delivery in person.

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Charles Russell Lockharts.

Court cannot grant housing injunction

All v Westminster City Council
Nairne v Camden London Borough Council
Before Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Mummery
[Judgment July 24]

The county court had no jurisdiction to grant an interlocutory injunction requiring a local authority to provide accommodation for a person proceeding with an appeal under section 204 of the Housing Act 1996.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing appeals by Westminster City Council and Camden London Borough Council and setting aside interlocutory injunctions granted by Judge Previc and Judge Cowell sitting at Central London County Court.

Mr Martin Russell for Mr Layla Ali; Mr Clive Hughes Jones for Westminster.

Mr Terence Gallivan for Mr Andrew Nairne; Mr Bryan

McGuire for Camden.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the appeals were confined to the narrow point of law whether the county court had jurisdiction to grant an interlocutory injunction requiring a local authority to provide accommodation for a person who was proceeding with an appeal under the 1996 Act.

Housing Act applications to local authorities consisted of five stages: the initial application, the inquiry period, the decision, the internal review of that decision and finally an appeal to the county court. The case concerned the last two stages.

The local authority was under a duty to provide interim accommodation for the homeless while making inquiries. Parliament had stated clearly when and in what circumstances that duty came to an end.

Section 18(3) provided that the duty ceased when the authority's decision was notified, even if the applicant requested a review of the decision.

decision. The authority had a discretion whether to continue the applicant's occupation of accommodation pending the review.

Should the courts be able to override the discretionary power of the local authority by means of a mandatory injunction?

The county court was a creature of statute and had no inherent jurisdiction to grant injunctions. The 1996 Act did not confer on the county court any general jurisdiction to grant injunctions; nor was there any specific jurisdiction to grant an interim mandatory injunction requiring a local authority to accommodate an applicant pending appeal after review.

It was well established that the granting of an injunction depended upon the pre-existence of some substantive right to which it was ancillary.

The Act stated that the duty to accommodate came to an end once the local authority had made the determination. There was no right leading to a cause of action which

could be enforced against the local authority, only a statutory right of appeal against the decision. It followed that the grant of an injunction was outside the jurisdiction of the county court.

However, challenges to the exercise of discretion could still be made by judicial review and that was the proper approach for those seeking to be accommodated pending review or appeal when discretion had not been exercised in their favour.

It would be contrary to the clear expression of Parliament's intentions in investing a discretion to accommodate applicants in the local authority also to enable the county court to override by means of interim mandatory injunction the discretion the local authority had exercised.

The President and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Moss Beasley Muller & Coleman; Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster.
O'bornes, Camden; Ms Amanda Kelly, Camden.

Prosecution must act with speed

Regina v Leeds Crown Court, Ex parte Whitehead
Where the prosecution applied for an extension of custody time limits under section 41(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 could not be undertaken within those time limits when it otherwise could have been, the prosecution had not acted with due expedition as required by section 24(3)(a) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

The Queen's Bench Division Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Hooper) so held on June 10, refusing, through his delay, an application by Nigel Whitehead for judicial review of Judge Jones who at Leeds Crown Court on February 11, 1998 had allowed an appeal by the prosecution against a refusal of Leeds Justices to extend the pre-committal custody time limits.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said that *R v Leeds Crown Court, Ex parte Briggs* (No 2) [The Times March 10, 1998] showed that the test was whether at some point the prosecution failed to act with due expedition but whether it did so in such a way that section 6(1) proceedings could not be undertaken when they otherwise could have been.

The application for leave to apply for judicial review was not lodged until March 13, 1998 by which date the applicant had been committed into custody for trial.

Juror visited scene of murder

Regina v Smyth (Paul)
Regina v Aspinall (John)
Regina v Aspinall (Thomas)
Where a juror, during the course of a judge's summing up, had visited the scene of the offence in order to assess the colour of the lighting there, such an irregularity would only have rendered the subsequent conviction unsafe if it could have had an effect of some significance in the issues which the jury had to determine.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Longmore) so stated on July 6 in dismissing appeals by Paul Smyth, John Aspinall and Thomas Aspinall against their convictions on June 24, 1997 at Preston Crown Court (Mr Justice Douglas Brown and a jury) of murder.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that upon visiting the scene of the murder which had taken place at night on a street and been seen by many witnesses, the juror had found the street lighting to be orange, confirming one witness's evidence but contradicting the highways department's confirmation that it had been white.

The issues for the jury did not

Notice served although not received

Kinch and Another v Bullard and Others
Before Mr Justice Neuberger
[Judgment July 27]

A notice of severance of a joint tenancy of matrimonial property sent pursuant to section 36(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925, despite not having been received by the addressee, had been validly served in accordance with section 196(3) of the 1925 Act once it had been posted by ordinary first class mail and had been delivered at the property; the notice had, therefore, been given in accordance with section 196(3) and could not then be withdrawn by the sender.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when deciding that the notice had been validly served and that the plaintiffs were, therefore, entitled to a declaration giving them a one half share of the property or the proceeds of sale.

Mr Michael Waterworth for the plaintiffs; Mr John Waters for the defendants.

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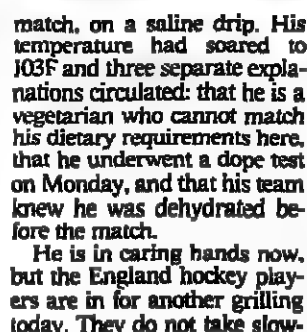
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
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IN ANY tournament, anywhere in the world, we can ask no more than the men of England and Malaysia gave at a pulsating National Hockey Stadium last night. It was a hard, exhausting match that ended 2-2 only after the opponents had drawn on their limits of skill and will. Neither would yield, England because they had the better technique and organisation, Malaysia because they had the crowd, 12,000 strong but in such voice that it might have been five times that number, breathing hore into them.



PETER NICOL was the only player among five Britons to improve on a bronze medal from the singles competition yesterday, and he will need to reverse the trend of the past two years to turn his opportunity into gold today (Colin McQuillan writes).

flipped a 9-2, 9-3, 9-1 defeat on Paul Johnson, the England No.3, who was still suffering from the effort of removing the world champion, Rodney Eyles, from the quarter-finals.

The women's final today is an all-Australian affair after easy victories over English opponents in the semi-finals. Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, defeated Cassandra Jackman 9-2, 9-0, 9-2, and Michelle Martin overcame Sue Wright 9-7, 9-1, 9-2.

dissolving salt tablets, as England footballers did during the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, but are advised to consume as many salty foods as possible. And to drink, drink, drink, though champagne — ultimately earned by the Olympic gold-medal squad in Seoul in 1988, of which Russell Garcia, of today's team, was a member — is as yet a mirage.

England must beat Pakistan to be sure of reaching the semi-finals on Saturday. The players and their coaches, Roy Dancer, spent the morning studying a video of the Pakistan team, who will present a different, tactical and tactical battle to the Malaysians. Yet Malaysia, who came back spiritedly from a goal down to equalise, then lead, and finally to hang on dearly for the draw, also drew with Pakistan.

Paul Lissek, their coach, is German, committed and having a remarkable effect on Malaysia in the short term. Lissek, whose full-time job is managing Germany, has selected astonishingly young players, such as the 20-year-old goalkeeper, Roslan Jama-luddin, and the 17-year-old schoolboy, Logan Kavandan.

"I lost my voice out there today, but the point means all four in the group can qualify for the semi-finals," Lissek said. "I respect my players, but from now on they must play like a real team. They cannot be again like they were against England. Like chickens afraid of the snake. England was the better team. I know that. As a German, to see England coming again so strong in world hockey, with a coach who knows everything tactical, that's nice for hockey."

That is no more modern or atmospheric arena in the sport than the National Stadium, though Lahore, with 85,000 partisans, is a different pressure-cooker. But yesterday, after Justin Pidcock, a chartered surveyor, had dived in where only the brave dare to put England ahead, Chairul Anwar equalised with an audacious set-piece, a low shot driven from an oblique angle. It seemed nothing but a flick of the wrist but it was enough to deceive Simon Mason, the England goalkeeper.

After half-time, Mason's agile block from a penalty corner could not prevent Nawawi



swooping to put Malaysia ahead. But all Malaysia's resistance could not prevent Jon Wyatt, a management consultant, equalising from a penalty stroke.

If Wyatt and his men were professional football players, they would then have bemoaned the *one-sided nature* of the crowd, the *inequality of the schedule* and the *overbearing odds of beating nature itself*. But they did not. "Having such a crowd, whoever they are shouting for, is great for the game," Waugh said. "We take lots of fluids, lots of sleep and be back as fresh as possible for Pakistan." It is called sportsmanship.

MARK RICHARDSON was talking yesterday about his prospects for winning the 400 metres here when he was asked whether the Commonwealth Games presented a tougher field in his event than had the European championships in Budapest last month. "Yes," he said, before coming to the most relevant point. "Everybody is going to be tired, so there are bound to be a few surprises."

While Iwan Thomas may be the favourite on form this season — he has won the European and World Cup titles — the fatigue factor may tilt the balance towards Richardson. Thomas has had only one night to recover from flying through several time zones and a 14-hour journey from Johannesburg, where he took part in the World Cup at the weekend, before lining up in the heats today.

day. For many athletes, such as Thomas, the season has been long and hard. However, for those who are competing at the end, in this is the most meaningful challenge, of a hectic year, Ashia Hansen and Kelly Holmes will be looking to squeeze a little drop of satisfaction out of an empty season.

Today is the first day of the six-day athletics programme and, for all the gold medals that will be won by mainly English, but perhaps Scottish and Welsh athletes as well, none would be more delighted to see than if Holmes relinquish her 1,500 metres title. A four-inch scar on her left Achilles tendon is testimony to the injury that threatened her career.

After limping off the track in the opening round of the world championships in Athens last year, worse was to follow as surgery failed to do the trick. Still not running by April, she turned to the specialist who saved Liz McColgan's career and, in Glasgow last month, had her first international race in 12 months.

Holmes won, but in a modest time. "My expectations are always high but I have got to put it into perspective and, as long as I finish the champion-

Hansen, having set an indoor triple jump world record in February, has missed almost the entire season with a bruised heel. "It would be fantastic to win the Commonwealth gold but the European championships were my goal for the year and it was difficult for me not being there," Hansen said.

The men's 400 metres, and especially the men's 100 metres, may be more competitive than in Budapest, but these are Games that will be dominated by British athletes, largely because of the weakness of the opposition, particularly in the technical disciplines. Of the

46 gold medals, one third or so should be shared by England, Scotland and Wales, much of the success coming in the field events.

With Dougie Walker, the European 200 metres champion, injured, Scotland's hopes rest with Allison Curbishley in the 400 metres. She can take advantage of the absence of Cathy Freeman, of Australia, and Sandie Richards, of Jamaica, the gold and silver medal winners from the world championships last year.

In the absence of Colin Jackson, Thomas is Wales' best hope but England's potential winners are too numerous to mention. The greatest accolade, though, should be reserved for Steve Backley II, having won his third successive European javelin title last month, he can do the same in the Commonwealth Games completing a double treble.

While the 100 metres includes Ato Boldon, Frankie Fredericks and Obasogie Thompson, leaving Darrelin Campbell, the European champion, needing to improve to win a medal, many events are embarrassingly weak. The challenge, for example, to succeed Sally Gurnell as 400 metres champion has been taken up by only six women.

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Harris
Sullivan

FREE
£10 B

WRIGHT'S EYE

MAN. LTD. 2/1 DRAW

CORRECT SCORE

1-0 6/1

2-0 11/1

3-0 10/1

3-1 33/1

3-2 28/1

0-0 33/1

1-1 5/1

2-2 18/1

FIRST GOALS

15/2

2/1

3/1

4/1

Beware: spice is not the plural of spouse

[illegible]

